

TEXAS

**Robert "Bob" Way
Commandant**



MARINE

**Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League**

SUMMER Edition



**August
2017**



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Commandant's Corner

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FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO

thank everyone for their support in electing me as their Commandant for the Department of Texas.

We have an interesting and challenging year ahead of us. At this year's National Convention, the membership will be voting on proposed new changes to the National Bylaws. If you have not taken the time to read them, then you should. They are on the National and Department websites. This is your Marine Corps League and you have a voice and responsibility in how it will be run. This does not just apply at the National level; it applies at all levels in the Marine Corps League.



You have been hearing for years that the League was going to be doing everything online. Well it is here.

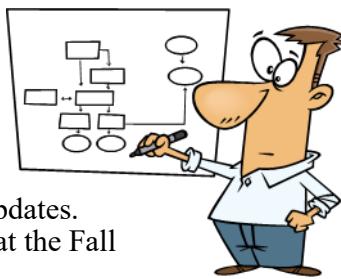
Detachments have to get online and start using computers. Everyone needs to have a working knowledge of what is required of them as a Marine Corps League member. Go to the Department's website - there is a lot of information there that will help you.



The Fall Staff Conference will be 19–21 October 2017 at the Marriott South Houston, 9100 Gulf Fwy., Houston. The Galveston Detachment #668 will be the hosting Detachment. Check the Department website for more information.

The conference is a training session and I highly recommend all Detachments send a representative to it. This way they can provide their Detachment membership with the latest changes and updates.

Hope to see you all at the Fall Conference.



Senior's Segment

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HELLO BROTHERS AND sisters...

I would like to thank you for your vote at the 2017 State Convention and congratulations to the other elected Officers. The membership was involved in discussions, debate and questioned suggested bylaw changes. I believe that it is healthy for Marines to debate.



The Activity Reports...

Some Detachments have problems submitting them and some do not. Felix is working hard to try and streamline and simplify the report. Please remember, if you submit an Activity Report I will

RECEIVED reply with "received" within two business days. If you do not hear from me after two days, please call or email me asking what my problem is. Lol. I work for you, the Detachment, and if I can make your job easier, then that's what I will do. I encourage all

Detachments to submit an Activity Report. Some don't and that's ok; this is a voluntary organization and this is a voluntary report. The Activity Report helps the Department of Texas recognize your hard work. Remember you have to fill out a 990 with the IRS and the Life Member Report helps get your Detachment income.

Awards...

One of my jobs is awards, and every Detachment or Member that excels should be recognized. The Department level awards are to show the appreciation and gratitude for your hard work. It's not a contest... well, we are Marines. The Awards Committee can't recognize what we don't know about, so please submit the appropriate forms correctly filled out. The Awards Committee will consist of the Board of Trustees.

I will consult with them and respect their recommendations, but I am ultimately the one responsible.



This year I am working on an award for Detachments that provide the highest honor members can give... Honors for our fallen Veterans. If your Detachment provides, in MCL uniform, any type of Honors for a fallen Veteran, then your Detachment will qualify. Please send me a letter explaining your involvement in Honors. Also, on your Activity Report be sure to indicate Honor Guard in the activity field.

My mission is to protect the Detachment/Members. If it does not help the Detachment/Members then why do it? I am proud to be a Marine Corps League Member and proud you have elected me as your Sr. Vice.

Junior's Journal

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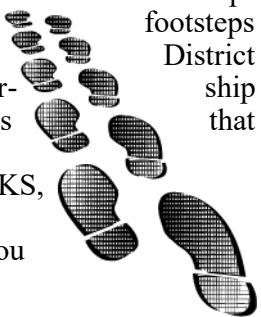
AS YOUR NEW JR. VICE Com-
mandant, I thank each of you who were in



attendance at the State Convention in Beaumont and I pledge my loyalty to you, the Red Hats. We had a great State Convention. And, for a Cajun food lover like myself, the banquet was wonderful, the bread pudding fabulous. For the cigar crowd, we even received free cigars from the management. The weather was great, too. No severe storms, just a little rain.

We all know the problems faced in recruiting and retention of members. It's an endless task. Chuck Bones, your previous Jr. Vice and now Sr. Vice, introduced or started work on some innovation programs to support this effort. With his support, I will continue in his footsteps and work closely with your Vices to strengthen our member-and shore up those Detachments are struggling.

Next stop: Overland Park, KS, for the National Convention in August. Hope to see many of you there.



Judge Advocate Alerts

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LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF
to the Marine Corps League Department of Texas.

I was born to a Marine hero, was raised in the Corps, and was commissioned at my college graduation by my father, Col. Richard D. Humphreys, USMC (Ret). I became the second woman aviation supply officer in the Corps (1974 through 1976) and served at SOES, Quantico. After release from active duty after the birth of my first child in 1976, I served in the Marine Corps Reserve for four more years until my discharge from the Reserves.

I moved to Dallas in 1979 and have since earned a masters and doctorate in Audiology. I have raised two families (two children born in the 70s and two in the 90s) and, leaving my profession in 1998, homeschooled the younger two through high school. I returned to my audiology career in 2009 and am the founder and owner of The Hearing and Tinnitus Center of Dallas-Fort Worth, working with people with hearing loss, tinnitus and sound sensitivities.



In 2015 I saw a new patient who had made an appointment with me because I am a Marine. He invited me to attend his Marine Corps League Detachment meeting. I found family at that first meeting. I found heroes once again. I don't ever want to lose them again and I am thrilled to work with them and for them in any capacity. Our Detachment has had a re-organization and is rebuilding. I am thrilled to be a part of that. We're doing it like only Marines can. I have been honored by them to be their Judge Advocate and am now honored by the Department of Texas to be its Judge Advocate.

I am new to this position and working at the Department level, but promise to do all that I can to serve the Marine Corps League, the Department of Texas and the Capt. John Yancey Detachment. Thank you for your confidence in me.

During the second quarter of 2017, Department of Texas Convention was held in Beaumont, TX.:

- Bylaw changes to Section 120 #3 (elected office nominations regarding absent members), Section 300 (2) (Cam Posey Memorial Scholarship distribution), and Administrative Procedure 300 (Recruiter of the Year) were passed. Bylaw change to Section 130 (term limits for Department Commandant) failed to pass.



- Paula Land was elected as Judge Advocate, replacing Jim Gulley. All records and correspondence have been transferred to Paula Land.
- A question has been raised regarding the notification of these changes to the Detachments as per Department Bylaws prior to the state convention.

The JA and Department Commandant are researching this question.

Adjutant/Paymaster Postings

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AT THE NATIONAL

new database system will be presented to the membership, which will be used to process transmittals, get reports, and submit Officer Installation Reports.

Predicated on the membership's approval, the new system should be released to the Detachments before the first of next year.

At the Department Convention, we touched briefly on the fact that changes are coming regarding the fact that transmittals will be processed electronically. We do not have all the specifics of how the system will work, but it will require that all Detachment Paymasters be computer literate and have a fairly up-to-date computer. Initially, the Paymasters will have the ability to do change of address only. Going forward, the Paymasters will be given the ability to process all transmittals and other documents. I will be going to each District to conduct the training. More details to come.

Changes Coming!



By now, you should have received your **Detachment Rosters** and a **PLM roster**. Please review the roster and ensure that it is correct. If there are deceased members on the roster, your Chaplain must complete a Death Notice and send it to Melody Bronson, the Department Chaplain. Her address is on the Department website. At the bottom of the roster put the following statement:

"We certify that this roster is true and correct."

The **Commandant and Adjutant** should sign the roster. I must have the roster by

DECEMBER 8TH.

Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your roster to me.

Chaplain's Comments

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GREETINGS MARINES!

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer! It was great seeing everyone at the State Convention. We missed those who could not make it. It was a great convention with a Cajun flare... enjoyed the Cajun music and the Cajun food that was not too spicy for my taste buds – was very good!

Congratulations to the 2017 Joe Vickery Jr.



Chaplain's Award winner: Chaplain Earl Kirkpatrick from the Longhorn Detachment. Thank you to the Detachment Commandants for submitting your nominees. There were a lot of great candidates this year and it was difficult to choose the winner.

The Memorial Service went very well and our fellow Marine brothers and sisters were honored during this time.

I will not be attending the National Convention this year but I am sure it will be great! I wish everyone who will be attending "the best" and

Woof! Woof!

to my fellow Devil Dogs attending the Grand Growl. I plan to attend the Fall Staff Conference in October in Galveston.

Remember to send me your death notices... either by regular mail (704 Rancho Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149) or email (meadolarc@aol.com). If you

know that the deceased League member is also a member of the MODD, please contact me as the Pound Dog Trainer/Chaplain so a death notice can be completed for the MODD member.

Until next time... Semper Fi and God Bless!

Rejoice Your Way Through

By Joan Clayton

It's easy to rejoice when all is well. The real test comes in rejoicing during the hard times of life. Someone has said, "It's not what happens to you but your attitude toward it."

Joy does not come from worrying, fretting, and stewing. In spite of any problem there is something to be joyful about. To be joyful in every situation lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, and family friction.

Joy brings hope.

Joy brings health.

Joy is contagious.

Joy attracts others.

Joy reduces stress.

Joy anticipates hope and optimism.

To make your day, arise each morning and say, "*This is a great day and I will rejoice in it because I'm alive!*"



is normally the smaller of the two if size matters to you. You gain an abundance of knowledge just from one appearance... not to speak of all the new contacts from around the State.

For all you new Commandants out there who haven't ever made either a State Convention or Conference, how can you inform your newcomers on what it's like to attend? You really can't accurately. The Commandant is to be the leading role of your Marine Corps League as it was in the real Corps. I believe it was taught (or was when I was in) "Leadership by Example." If you don't care to go, why should anybody else from your command want to go? The answer is so they can learn how

to conduct a proper meeting with all the trimmings. Some (*not all*) of you could use a sharpening of procedures when it comes to holding a proper meeting.

All new Officers – (no matter what your position) your position is a vital necessity to the continuance and growth of the Marine Corps League. Think about it, without the proper leadership you can say, "It's just a gathering of a bunch of people." I know some of you Marines take these meetings seriously but on the other hand some of you don't. You know which ones you are.

Think about the newcomer. You know how it was when you first came in to the League (if you can remember that far, for some of you). You remembered the Corps and everything it stood for. Most Leaguers are former (or just not on active duty) Marines who were from the NCO ranks or higher and even possible Junior NCO rank. The point is you all know what it is to be a leader and how you're supposed to teach those around you on "how to take over in any scenario." Those who don't teach are trying to build a dictatorship, so they can stay in the commanding seat and suppress all others and make them feel inferior.

All you newcomers who have been sitting in the back of the room because you don't know the "Who, What, Where, When and How," it's time to find out all you need to know to make a good slow but steady movement to becoming one



Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

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SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

You owe it to yourself to get out and attend a State Convention or Conference. The Conference



of the Detachment leaders.

Get on the web at texasmcl.org and check it out and look at all the tabs. That's a start to knowing more about your State League and improving your Detachment's way of business. From there you can go to the National Web (location on one of the State tabs) and check their tabs. If you are like me you don't like to go somewhere and not know what the uniform of the day is, or where to go, what time to be there, etc. Trust me, that's what it felt like to me at my first conference. Hey, like me don't let that stop you from going. Once you get there and talk with a few good Marines you'll feel right at home and if not, ask questions. That's the only other way to learn.

For all Marine Corps League meetings, the uniform of the day is your **Marine Corps League COVER!** That's by the Bylaws. Let your conscience be your guide MCL and



he might bite.

National
conscience
about wearing the
shirt, shoes
slacks (which I
strongly do
recommend
wearing).

Hey, don't kick the
old dog. Let the old dog lie;

Webmaster Writings

Felix Salmeron

Department of Texas Webmaster
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GETTING TO UNDERSTAND YOUR JOB IN A DETACHMENT

As we progress through our Detachment commitments, we find ourselves doing a job that we are new at. Often times we are told "Don't worry about

it too much; you will get the hang of it."

Our personal pride often times does not accept that "You will get the hang of it." On our Department website, we have put some modules on the "Officer Orientation" tab.

Have your staff look at the



modules by their job title. Often times when it is written it has a little more impact than word of mouth. Remember... your bylaws are always your primary guide.

Division/District/ Detachment Digest

SOUTHERN DIVISION



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MARINES!!!

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the newly elected Officers of the Department of Texas and wish you well in your duties for the coming year.



Operating Officer Bob Borka was fully engaged with the process, and when questions came up on a particular line item the answers were quickly found. As a member of your Board of Trustees this is one budget



that I feel very comfortable with presenting to the overall membership. I also believe that once we have had the opportunity to hire a professional bookkeeper the process will improve further. It has been a long hard road back from where we stood just four short years ago, and took a lot of hard work by a huge number of members but we are looking better financially, and can now start to work on some of our other outstanding issues.

During my trip to this year's budget meeting I had an opportunity to meet and work with our new National Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka. I hope everyone has a chance to meet him during the national convention in Overland Park. A new COO is the next step in putting the organization back on a sound foundation.

DISTRICT 1

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HAWTHORNE DETACHMENT

in Stinnett, TX, was honored at the Hutchinson County Toys for Tots Appreciation Banquet for their assistance with last year's Toys for Tots Drive. The Hawthorne Detachment is also in the middle of preparing to hold their annual Stinnett Birthday Celebration Breakfast along with a Rifle Raffle to help raise funds for the Detachment. Drawing for the rifle will be at the Detachment Marine Corps Birthday Party.

(L-R) Shannon Patrick and Dennis Thomas representing Hawthorne Detachment and Denice Thomas of the Toys for Tots



The Roan Creek Detachment in Amarillo held their annual Veterans Golf Tournament. The funds raised are used to help Veterans in need in the Amarillo area.



DEANE HAWKINS DETACHMENT & DISTRICT 3 EL PASO

Submitted by Robert Way
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THE DEANE HAWKINS

Detachment has had another busy three months.

We did the Marine Corps League Rose Program for four days at Fort Bliss and it worked out very well.



(L-R) George Duran, Bob Way and Pete Gomez soliciting donations for MCL Rose program at Ft. Bliss



(L-R) Tom Smith, Connie and Chon Pena soliciting donations for MCL Rose program at Ft. Bliss commissary

Members also presented Leadership awards to NJROTC cadets at Santa Teresa, San Elizario, Canutillo, Socorro, Fabens and Pebble Hills High School NJROTC programs.

We also made two Eagle Scout presentations.

Bob Way presenting an Eagle Scout Certificate to new Eagle Scout David Wyrostek



For Memorial Day weekend we organized various Veterans organizations and put up the Avenue of Flags Friday morning at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. Saturday we provide snacks for over 1,200 volunteers to help put the small flags on each headstone. Monday we attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Ft. Bliss and Tuesday we took the Avenue of Flags down. It was a busy five days.



*Volunteers who helped put up
Avenue of Flags for Memorial Day at
Ft. Bliss National Cemetery*

We continue to provide snacks and coffee service at the El Paso VA clinic.

The Young Marines provided a Color Guard and flag bearers for the Elks Lodge Annual Flag Day ceremony. They also participated in the annual 4th of July Parade.



*Young Marines Color Guard at Elk Lodge
Flag Day presentation*



Young Marines in El Paso 4th of July Parade

The Honor Detail has participated in 21 funeral firing details since the beginning of May.



Honor Unit cleaning their rifles

We are now organizing for the fall and winter activities.

ALAMO DETACHMENT SAN ANTONIO

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Sr. Vice
Commandant
Jimmie Tadlock
presented the Good
Citizenship
Award to two Boy



Scouts who
achieved their
rank of Eagle
Scout. Eagle Scout is
the highest
achievement or rank
attainable in the
Boy Scout Program
of the Boy Scouts of America. The recipients are
Ric Solis II (above right) and Sean Woods (above left).

The 11th annual John Kilmer Medal of Honor remembrance ceremonies will be held on Monday, August 15, 2017, at 6 P.M. The location is the San Jose Burial Park, 8235 Mission Road, San Antonio,

TX 78214 (off 1700 SE Military Dr. behind Mission Park Funeral). All members of veteran organizations are encouraged to wear the appropriate headgear for their organization.

In Korea, Kilmer was a member of H Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. On August 12-13, 1952, he took part in the attack on "Bunker Hill" in Korea. He attended to the wounded during the battle and was wounded, then was mortally wounded after using his body to protect a wounded Marine from enemy fire at the age of 22. For his actions on August 13 he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

San Antonio Young Marines held a joint retirement ceremony in honor of Young Marine GySgt Nathan Bell (below left) and Hunter Heinsohn (below right).



Nathan Bill joined the San Antonio Young Marines on 11 March 2012 and Hunter Heinsohn on 10 March 2013. Both held leadership positions as a Young Marine and each participated in their school JROTC program and earned many awards for their achievements. GySgt Bell earned his Eagle Scout while in the Boy Scouts. Bell also was accepted into and graduated with honors from the Aerospace program at St. Philips College.

Outside of the Young Marines, Heinsohn graduated as an Honor Student, receiving the Superintendent Award.

Both men served in the San Antonio Young Marine Program with distinction. When asked "If it weren't for the mandatory age limit would you have liked to stay?" both said "Yes!" The Unit Commander and his staff have done a wonderful job with the program and with service to the San Antonio community.



HEART OF TEXAS DETACHMENT WACO

Submitted by Luis Lopez, *Commandant*
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HELLO EVERYBODY

from all of us at Heart of Texas Detachment #975. It was great seeing everyone at the State Convention. The Detachment that hosted the convention had all of their officers there. It would be great to see more League members at the conventions, but we had

a good turnout. I hope more of you try to attend the Fall Staff Conference in Galveston in October.

It is going to be a busy year for our Detachment, but we are looking forward to getting a lot of things accomplished.

Until we see you all again in Galveston, be safe and God Bless.



LONGHORN DETACHMENT CROWLEY

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THE LONGHORN

Detachment is proud to announce that our 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament had proceeds of \$9,000 and distributed these funds to our two charities, Wheelchair 4 Kids and Cuisine for Health (information on these in last quarter's newsletter). Our Rose Program donations through the Burleson City Market table set up on the first Saturday of each month, is enabling the Detachment to continue supporting the Liberty House and Brother's Keepers. We are adding another sponsorship to our list of charities, the Lone Star Cubs 13U Majors team, who will be playing

in the Triple Crown World Series Baseball Tournament, July 25-31, in Steamboat Springs, CO. Our donation level is "Double Sponsor \$200."

During our Charity Golf Tournament, Madeleine Robinson, Executive Director of the Wheelchairs 4 Kids program, delivered a new wheelchair to Myron Miller, a young 15-year-old man who has been wheelchair bound since birth.



A quick summary about Myron Miller:
"Meet 15-year-old Myron Miller, who was diagnosed with arthrogryposis. This illness is a congenital contracture of the joints, resulting in Myron's inability to walk or perform other tasks. Metal plates and pins have been implanted over five surgeries to help improve his mobility. However, Myron is undaunted and always smiling. Myron likes many things as other teenagers his age. He is a big gamer. He is very tough to beat at basketball video games. Myron also listens to a variety of music, and someday wants to be a drummer in a popular country band. More importantly, he is very patriotic. Myron loves America and he shows his support by being in the ROTC. The young man knows that in this country he has the freedom to pursue his happiness, and not even a disease will prevent him from achieving his goals.

Additionally, the Longhorn Detachment was privileged to be able to present Myron Miller with a certificate as an "Honorary Young Marine," signed by Joe Lusignan, Deputy Director/Young Marines of the Marine Corps League.



Of course, we had to give Myron one of our Longhorn Detachment shirts and a hat that says, "Honorary Young Marine." It was a great ceremony; one that we will not soon forget. Good luck Myron Miller in all you do.

While attending the Department of Texas State Convention, our Chaplain was honored with the Joe Vickery Jr. Chaplain's Award. Congratulations to Earl Kirkpatrick who has served with distinction as our Chaplain since 2003 taking on additional collateral responsibilities that expanded and improved the image of the Marine Corps League and the Longhorn Detachment.

And, how about our 4th of July float? We had a great time handing out candy and saluting all Veterans along the parade route.

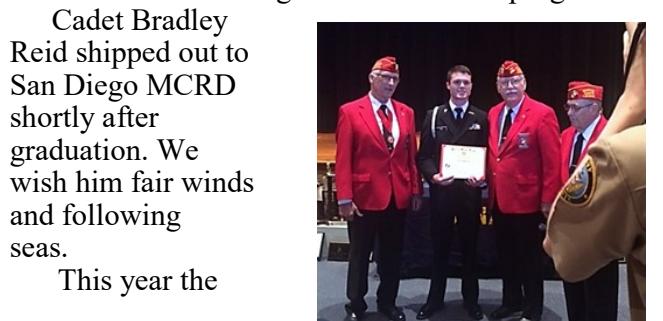
Much more as we recognized our supporters: The Longhorn Detachment made a presentation to the Burleson Rotary in appreciation for their \$1,000 donation to our 4th and 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament.



The Longhorn Detachment takes great pleasure in recognizing the Honor Graduates of the JROTC programs in our two local high schools. During May we gave a \$50 gift certificate and a Certificate of Achievement to the Honor Graduates of the Burleson High School and Joshua High School JROTC program.

Cadet Bradley Reid shipped out to San Diego MCRD shortly after graduation. We wish him fair winds and following seas.

This year the



Longhorn Detachment is raffling an M-14 Rifle; yes, the one I took into Viet Nam in 1966. Four months later they took my 7.62mm man-killing rifle away from me and gave me an AR-15, which I took with no small amount of trepidation.



LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS DETACHMENT BASTROP

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DURING THIS QUARTER the Lost

Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384 has been very busy. In April members attended the Community Garage Sale in Smithville. This event allows us to help raise money for assisting our Veterans.



*LPL Members attending the
Smithville Community Garage Sale*

Also in April we began the planning and promoting of our 4th Battle Ball Golf Tournament. It is scheduled for October 7, 2017, and again is being held at the Colo Vista Golf Club in Bastrop, TX. This event is one that most everyone looks forward to and is a lot of fun and very exciting. Currently we are looking for sponsors; if you are interested please go to the webpage using the link below. If you're a golfer be sure to check out our webpage for more details. The webpage URL is www.lpl1384.org/Golf.html.



All net proceeds fund Project F.A.I.T.H. (**Funding Assistance In Trying Hours**).

In May several of our Detachment members were honored to present a Good Citizenship Award to Life Scout Patrick Riley Reed. Also, he was awarded his Eagle Scout rank.



LPL#1384 members (L-R) Ken Steffek, Mike Keppler & Don Fannin present Patrick Riley Reed with his Good Citizenship Award and his promotion to Eagle Scout.

As has been our tradition on May 28, LPL#1384 placed flags to our fallen Service Members at the Ridgeway Baptist Church Cemetery in Paige. This is the cemetery where LPL#1384's 1st Commandant, Stanley LaBauve, is laid to rest.



*LPL #1384 members after placing flags
for Veterans at Ridgeway Baptist Church
Cemetery*

Also in May LPL#1384 continued to focus on the 4th Annual Battle Ball Golf Tournament. We are still seeking sponsors, teams, and volunteers. Again please see the link above.

Moving into June, in celebration of summer and to share some fellowship, LPL#1384 held its annual Family Day Picnic & BBQ. We also managed to have a meeting mixed in there as well.



Members enjoying one another at the Annual Family Day Picnic & BBQ

On June 14, Flag Day, the Daughters of the American Revolution invited LPL#1384 to perform a Flag Folding Ceremony. During the ceremony members were on hand to narrate and explain the meaning of each step.



LPL#1384 members (L-R) Wayne Mercer, Mike Keppler, Ken Steffek, Lupe Moncobaiz, Jim Timms and Tony Poletti perform and narrate the Flag Folding Ceremony

Our Detachment has partnered with Home Source, a local business in Bastrop that sells manufactured homes, to raise funds to support Vets in need through our F.A.I.T.H. (Funding Assistance In Trying Hours) Program throughout Bastrop County and Central Texas.



LPL#1384 participated in the Elgin Western Days Parade June 24th and took first place with their Parade entry. Here is a picture of LPL#1384 entry.



LPL#1384's entries for the Elgin Western Days Parade

LPL#1384 participated in the First Monday of the Month Bastrop Vet Network and morning fellowship and breakfast.



LPL#1384 members at the Bastrop Vet Network Morning Fellowship & Breakfast

LPL#1384 participated in the opening of a new Nursing Center that takes care of Veterans. We set up a booth and explained our F.A.I.T.H. (Funding Assistance in Trying Hours) Program to the attendees. In the picture are Mike and Jane Keppler, Ken and Pat Steffek, and Wayne Mercer.



LPL#1384 members are eager to explain what the F.A.I.T.H. program is

Towards the end of June during the Department of Texas MCL Convention in Beaumont, Texas, Commandant Tony Poletti of LPL#1384 presented his Detachment's bid proposal to host the June 2018 DOT Convention in Bastrop, TX. Going up against the Omni of Katy, TX, outside of Houston, and using the skill and cunning that only a Marine could possess, Commandant Tony Poletti pleaded his case successfully and won the Bid to host the June 2018 Convention.

The Lost Pines Leathernecks, Detachment #1384 is proud to announce that the June 2018 Department of Texas Marine Corps League Convention will be held in Bastrop, Texas.



(L-R) Jr. Past Commandant Ken Steffek, Paymaster Pat Steffek, and Commandant Tony Poletti along with his wife Kath at the Department of Texas MCL Convention in Beaumont

During the period covered in this article LPL#1384 activities increased with our members continuing to serve as Airport Guardians for the Austin Honor Flight for WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans going to and returning from Washington, DC. This is an honor many of our members take great pleasure in providing and continue to do so as often as possible.

In continuation of our support to our local NJROTC programs, Commandant Steffek presented a donation to the Bastrop High School NJROTC program.

The Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard continued to be busy with rendering Honors for veteran funerals and other events. Some of these events include rendering Honors for former students killed in Iraq and Afghanistan at Smithville High School, the Police Officers Memorial Ceremony at the Bastrop Fairview Cemetery and several Memorial Day ceremonies.



LPL#1384 members participating with the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard

This month we also had members assist other veterans with trips to the VA Hospital in San Antonio and visited some of our own members who were hospitalized. Several of our members took time to visit some of the residents of the Bastrop Nursing Home.

McLEMORE DETACHMENT HOUSTON

Submitted by John Pyle, Jr. Past Commandant
(281) 980-7443 (H) • (832) 967-7136 (C)
johnpyle.7136@yahoo.com

Memorial Weekend Ceremony Honoring the 4th Marine Division

The McLemore Detachment #324 and the 1st Battalion 23rd Marines performed the third annual Memorial Ceremony for the 4th Marine Division. The ceremony was conducted at the 4th Division Monument located in the Houston National Cemetery. The ceremony is held on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day and the gravesites have been decorated with American Flags. This makes an impressive backdrop for the event.

The Division participated in four assault landings and suffered over 17,000 casualties during World War II. Since its re-activation as the ground component of the Marine Corps Reserve, Division units have been deployed with the regular forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Ceremony commenced with the presentation of Colors by members of the Battalion. The

Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman gave the Invocation. The Ceremony included a review of the Division history by McLemore Jr. Past Commandant John Pyle and an overview of the Division's current operations by the unit Inspector Instructor Lt. Col. Michael Hudson. McLemore members performed a three volley rifle salute, placed a wreath at the monument and played taps.



Color Guard & Wreath



Invocation by Charles Ynman



Detachment Rifle Detail Members (L-R) Herb Myers, Scott Moseley, Marty Sonnier, Jose Sanabria, Charles "Chuck" Dingas and Steve Oeding Commanding

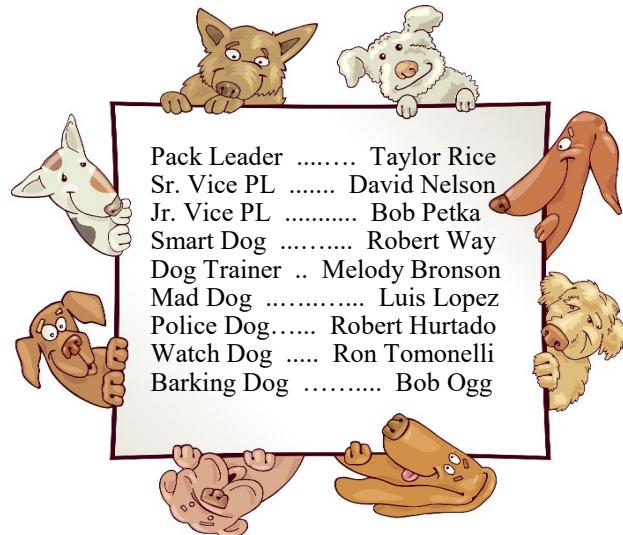
Devil Dog Doings

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



WOOF WOOF...

We had a great Grand Growl in Beaumont. Thank you to those who attended. Newly elected Pack Officers are as follows:



Keep your bones ready; here we come!



Auxiliary Announcements

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

GREETINGS EVERYONE...

It was so good to see everybody at the State Convention in Beaumont. I was so impressed with the 1st Sgt. Joyce Venable Detachment for all of their hard work for the convention.



I would like to thank them again for making sure that all the needs of

the Auxiliary were well taken care of.

This year will be a busy and exciting year for the Auxiliary. We have plans for increasing our membership and the number of units. There is so much work that needs to be done and we will be needing more members for the future. I want to commend the units for all of their hard work. Participation is the key to our success.



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

GREETINGS LADIES...

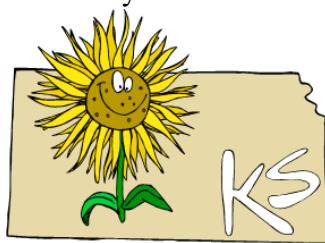
I hope our members had a chance to attend Memorial Day and Flag Day activities as we remember our departed Veterans and First Responders, and pay tribute to our Flag.

In June I attended the Department of Texas Convention in Beaumont. Department President Johnnie Lopez held a productive and informative meeting. It was a pleasure to see the ladies again. We also had a fun-filled Flea Scratch.



In July I attended our July 4th celebration. One day out of the year is not enough to celebrate the freedom of our country. It should be a daily celebration. We should keep in mind how lucky we are because of our Veterans.

In August I plan to attend the national convention in Overland Park, KS. PNP Barbara Noble just announced that there are still a



few rooms available at the Sheraton Hotel. If you are staying in an overflow hotel and wish to move to the main hotel (Sheraton), please contact PNP Jackie Hunter with the name of your reservation and confirmation number. Her email is dfhusmc@aol.com.

If you have any questions or need to order supplies for your unit please contact me.

Flea Fiddlings

MODDF Texas Hide

Johnnie Lopez

DOT MODDF Hide Big Flea

(254) 405-9404 (H)

luijohnnie@yahoo.com

Brenda Tomonelli

DOT MODDF Hide

Scratchy Flea

(903) 786-8243 (H)

besteptom@yahoo.com



THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Flea Hide had a very successful Grand Scratch in June in Beaumont. The theme was "Flip-Flop-Flea Tropical" and the attending Fleas were all decked out in flip-flops, leis, flowers, and grass skirts. The tropical theme included our Doggie Mascot dressed for the occasion. The Fleas were treated with punch and cookies. The group visited the MODD

Growl and were very grateful for the sweet tooth of each Dog who donated for our candy. We were also proud to welcome a couple of guests interested in our shenanigans. The MODDF donated all fines and bones to the Texas Operation Little Angel Fund.

The Hide also installed new officers for the upcoming year with Johnnie Lopez taking the position as Big Flea. The costumed Fleas paraded for the judges, who then awarded prizes to: 1st place-Diana Figueroa, 2nd place-Jackie Deen, and 3rd place-Marcia Ynman.





Auxiliary Flea Group



*Costume Winners
(L-R)
Diana Figueroa,
Jackie Deen,
Marcia Ynman*



New Big Flea Lopez announced that the theme for the Fall Scratch in October will be "Gilligan's Island." We are all looking forward to "our 3-hour tour" excursion in Galveston.

Past Flea of the Year, Dorcas Simpson, presented the 2017 *Marie Williams* Flea of the Year Award to Karren Ogg at the Saturday Banquet. Congrats, Karren!

Several of the Texas Hide Fleas are in the process of finalizing plans for the Supreme Scratch



to be held in August in Overland Park, KS. Texas should be well represented at National where the scheduled theme will be "Red, White, & Blue."

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.

Highlights of the 2017 State Convention

Activity Awards...

Category 1: (15-49 Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st Place | Deane Hawkins Det. |
| 2 nd Place | Lost Pines Leathernecks Det. |
| 3 rd Place | Longhorn Det. |

Category 2: (50-79 Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st Place | Comanche Peak Det. |
| 2 nd Place | McLemore Det. |
| 3 rd Place | Laredo Det. |

Category 3: (80 & Over Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st Place | Galveston County Det. |
| 2 nd Place | Eastex Det. |
| 3 rd Place | Coastal Bend Det. |

Americanism Awards...



Category 1:

(15-49 Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st Place | Brazoria County Det. |
| 2 nd Place | Lost Pines Leathernecks Det. |
| 3 rd Place | NO Entries |

Category 2: (50-79 Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Place | NO Entries |
| 2 nd Place | NO Entries |
| 3 rd Place | NO Entries |

Category 3: (80 & Over Paid Up Members)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Place | NO Entries |
| 2 nd Place | NO Entries |
| 3 rd Place | NO Entries |

Cam Posey Scholarships...



Big D Detachment:

Melody Bronson

McLemore Detachment:

Elaine Renberg

(The Scholarships this year were
in the amount of \$1,500 each)

Several other applicants applied as well. However,
they were disqualified because they didn't submit
a handwritten essay, a school acceptance letter, or
they missed the deadline.

Chapel of the Four Chaplains...



Charles Ynman

McLemore Detachmen

Houston

Humanitarian Award

Harry Bruce Award...

Felix Salmeron

Capt. John Yancey Detachment

Dallas

Joe Vickery Chaplain Award...



Department Chaplain Melody Bronson
with Award Winner *Earl Kirkpatrick*,

Longhorn Detachment Chaplain,
Crowley

Marine of the Year...



Bob Ogg (L), Sgt. Jay Hoskins
Detachment, Paris, accepting award
from 2016 MOY Ray Beard.

Meritorious Unit Commendation Certificates (Detachment)...

1st Sgt. Joyce Venable

Big D • Brazoria County

Brazos Valley • Cen-Tex

Coastal Bend • Deane Hawkins

Eastex • Galveston County

Hopkins County • Jacksonville

Laredo • Longview

Lost Pines Leathernecks • McLemore

Mike Loosemore • Piney Woods

Sgt. James R. Tijerina • Sgt. Jay Hoskins

Meritorious Unit Commendation Certificates (Individual)...

Larry Barnes • Chuck Bones • Chris Borel

John Brewer • Melody Bronson • John Casey

Mike English • John Grafflin • Jim Gulley

Bernie O'Dell • Juanita O'Dell • Chon Pena

Felix Salmeron • Kris Shewell • Ken Steffek

Dennis Thomas • Richard Torres

Amado Trevino • Robert Way • Larry Webber

Polly Weidenkopf

Pack Dog of the Year...

Helen Hicks
Big D Detachment, Dallas



Recruiter of the Year...

Ronnie Harper

Galveston County Detachment, Galveston



Miscellaneous...

Department Officers for 2017 - 2018:

Commandant Robert Way
Sr. Vice Commandant Charles "Chuck" Bones
Jr. Vice Commandant John Grafflin
Judge Advocate Paula Land
Adjutant/Paymaster Polly Weidenkopf
Chaplain Melody Bronson
Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel
Jr. Past Commandant Charles Ynman
Web Master Felix Salmeron

District Vice Commandants:

District 1 Dennis Thomas (Hawthorne Det.)
District 2 Patrick Murray (John Yancey Det.)
District 3 Chon Pena (Deane Hawkins Det.)
District 4 Ken Steffek (Lost Pines Det.)
District 5 .. Richard Torres (Galveston County Det.)
District 6 Robert Hurtado (Coastal Bend Det.)
District 7 Bill Carver (Longhorn Det.)
District 8 Larry Barnes (Jacksonville Det.)
District 9 John Brewer (Jacksonville Det.)

Fall Staff Conference – October 2017

It was indicated that our Fall Conference might be hosted by the Galveston County Detachment. More news as it becomes available.

State Convention – June 2018

The 2018 State Convention will be hosted by the Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment in Bastrop from June 28th – 30th, 2018. Lodging will be at the Hampton Inn & Suites, with meetings held at the Convention Center (2 miles from the motel). Buses will be available for transportation to and from the motel to the meetings. Room rates (To Be Announced) will include a free hot breakfast.

MEMORIAM Department of Texas

*Notification received of deceased members
since State Convention 2016
(June 1, 2016, thru May 31, 2017)*

Leslie Bailey

Danny Bill

James Blackstock

Don Carlisle

Cathy Carver

Roberto Castillo

Matthew Constatino

William "Billy Bob" Crim

Lawrence DeFreitas

Walter Didion

William "Bill" Fey

H.R. "Doc" Fry

Thomas Goss

Linda Harvey

Kenneth Henry

William Henson

John Huffhines

Michael Lerp

Louis Machala

Alonzo Mangham

Dale Proctor

Agustine Reyes

Jack Sanderson

Carlis Scroggins

Basil Smith

Roy Thompson

James "Wess" Wesson Tribble

Joseph Urtega

Lavell Williams



Cam Posey Scholarship

Submitted by
Bernie O'Dell
Cam Posey Scholarship
Cmte. Chairman
(940) 549-3944 (H) • (940) 550-5711 (C)
bernieodell@sbcglobal.net

COMMANDANT ROBERT WAY

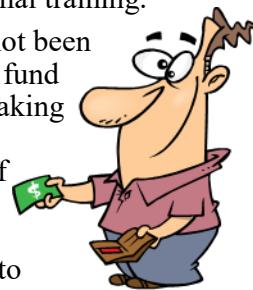
has asked me to chair the Cam Posey Scholarship Committee for this year. First of all, I would like to thank PNC Helen Hicks, the past chair of this committee, for her work over the last several years. I would also like to thank all the Detachments who have contributed to the Cam Posey Scholarship Fund. In case you have not heard of the Cam Posey Scholarship, let me invite you to check out the application on our Department website -

texasmcl.org - where you can download a brochure explaining the Who, What, Where, and When of how to apply for this Scholarship.

This Scholarship is for undergraduate work for schools in the **State of Texas only** and is available to:

- Sons and daughters of Marines who have lost their lives in the line of duty,
- Sons and daughters of active members of the Marine Corps League or Marine Corps League Auxiliary,
- Grandchildren and great grandchildren of active members of the Marine Corps League or Marine Corps League Auxiliary,
- Members of the Department of Texas Marine Corps League, Marine Corps League Auxiliary, or any honorably discharged Marine in need of vocational training.

If your Detachment has not been contributing to our scholarship fund I would urge you to consider making an annual donation at the next Department Convention or Staff Conference. The tradition has been that each Detachment donate \$100 or more each year to



help us continue this Scholarship.

Please make sure if you have someone applying for this Scholarship that they complete all the requirements listed on the application and that their essay is **hand written (not typed)**. The application must be complete and be submitted by **May 1st** to be considered for the scholarship.

If you have any questions please give me a call or send me an email and I will be glad to assist you.

If you are new to our League or an old timer and will be attending the Department of Texas Convention in June and would be willing to serve on this committee, please contact me. We meet but once a year at the Convention to select the recipients of our scholarships.



National News



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

Summer 2017
Semper Fi Magazine

MARINES...!

This will be my last article **FINAL** sent to you as your National Commandant, and it is sent with a great deal of pride over what we have accomplished in the last two-plus years.

We still have a ways to go to fulfill our goals, and I believe that with the new leadership coming on board after the National Convention elections we will report a job well done within the next four years. The stepping stones continue to be put in place,

and the overall plan is beginning to emerge. With the membership's assistance, we will have overcome many obstacles and persevered.

The process of interviewing candidates for selection of our Executive Director, or



Business Manager, is going forward, and it is believed we will make our selection by the middle of June and have the individual in the training process in time for our National Convention in August 2017. An announcement will be made when the selection is final.

Your Board of Trustees and leadership have accomplished much, and more will follow. Accomplishments include: a new headquarters located where Marines are present daily, and the sale of the old building; money invested in a Morgan Stanley building fund; a new *Semper Fi* magazine dedicated to our League and what is important to us; continued improvement of our membership data entries; and finally, being in the black and not the red as was the problem for too many years. Sacrifices were made, but they were necessary – the proof is in the spreadsheet.

I want to personally thank every member for all the courtesy you have extended during my many visits, and I will forever hold all of you with the greatest respect and admiration for what you accomplished with us at an extremely difficult time. As stated previously, "There is no 'I' in T.E.A.M., and we are a TEAM."

Please remember our warriors who are in harm's way and pray for their safe return!



National Headquarters News Release

Submitted by Wendell Webb
National Sr. Vice Commandant

(314) 705-0595
mwdmcl@w-cubeassociates.com

The Board of Trustees is proud to announce the hiring of a new Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Marine Corps League. Mr.

Robert J. Borka has accepted our offer and will join the Team on 1 July 2017. We are very excited about bringing

Mr. Borka on board to help in the restructuring of the Marine Corps League. Mr. Borka brings experience, organizational and leadership skills from the



corporate world with Knight Facilities Management Inc. (1998 - 2014), before joining the Young Marines in 2014. He has a very impressive reputation in the success of organization and operations of the Young Marines. He comes highly recommended. Please join the Board of Trustees in welcoming Mr. Borka to the Marine Corps League National Headquarters.

Robert J. Borka is a business executive with almost 30 years of management experience. He joined the Marine Corps League in 1995 upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps as a Cryptologic Technician (2651)/SSO. Robert transferred to the Flint Detachment #155 (Michigan) as a Life Member. He volunteered with the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League from 2006 to 2014 earning the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award. He served the Young Marines as Unit Commander, Battalion Commander, Regimental Adjutant, Division Adjutant, and Assistant Division Commander. Robert served on the Young Marines Board of Directors as the Treasurer and Vice Chairman, and participated on several committees. In 2014, Young Marines National Headquarters brought him on full time as the Director of Operations.

Robert received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management from the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Prior to his position at Young Marines National Headquarters, he was an Executive Director for a global facilities support services company where he had been employed since 1998.

Robert and his family live in Dumfries, VA. They have three children. His wife, Patricia, is the Director of Administration at Young Marines National Headquarters. Both she and Robert are members of the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

The Board of Trustees would also like to thank Mr. Thomas W. Hazlett Sr. for his service as the Marine Corps League Executive Director during the past two plus years. We wish Mr. Hazlett the best in the future on his endeavors. We will be seeing Tom around the League and Devil Dogs. Mr. Hazlett has agreed to overlap for 30 days to help in the transition of the duties as Mr. Borka assumes his new office on 1 July 2017.

Executive Director
Thomas W. Hazlett

Summer 2017
Semper Fi Magazine



MARINES!!!

It has been my privilege to serve as your Executive Director for the past two-plus years. In this time, we have come a long way as an organization and have accomplished many things as a Headquarters. Two years ago, the Commandant stood before you and stated that the Marine Corps League was in need of repair. We were financially in trouble; we had pending legal action against us; the Executive Director had just been released by the Board of Trustees; and the Headquarters was failing to do their mission which was to support the MCL's daily operation.

The Commandant stated the issues we faced would not be resolved quickly. Today, we still have pending legal actions against us. We are still dealing with some of the database's issues. On the good

side, we have paid off *all* the debts owed to the Paid Life Membership Fund and lines of credit and are able to meet

Headquarters' payroll. I promised the membership that Headquarters would be restructured and would once

again support the League. We have reduced the database's problems and the paperwork processing time from weeks to a few days. We will continue to work towards a paperless Headquarters, lowering operational costs. Our bylaws will be completely restructured.

We changed publishers for the *Semper Fi* magazine and moved Headquarters out of a deteriorating building. Our Ship's Store has improved its day-to-day operations. We have lowered our inventory and are once again being provided a good quality blazer. We've introduced some new items that we hope the membership will enjoy.

We've continued to improve our IT support and will have a surprise or two to present at the National



NEW!

Convention. We are working hard to support the Commandant of the Marine Corps in his Marine for Life Program and have developed a great relationship with the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League.

As I leave in August, I know we're turning over a revitalized Headquarters to our newly elected National Commandant. I'm happy to state that we are currently employing four Marine Corps spouses and two retired Marine veterans, counting myself.

I cannot thank the staff enough for all they've done to eliminate many of the League's problems. Our new Executive Director will have a much better organization to work with.



I encourage you to ask questions and vote in officers who have the League's best interest at heart and urge you to work hard in recruiting; if you keep it fun, they will come! We also need to give both current and former members a reason to stay or come back.

As always, I remain forever *Semper Fi*.

From the Front



Combat Training to Combat Troops – The Advise and Assist Mission of Task Force Al-Taqaddum

By Cpl. Shellie Hall, 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, www.marines.mil
June 2, 2017...

IRAQ –

U.S. Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors with Task Force Al-Taqaddum come together with one common mission – advising and assisting the Iraqi security forces of the Anbar Operations Command.

"Even though we are not from the same unit and we don't have history together, we are going to come together with a common mission and work on it to the best of our ability because others are depending on us," said Col. Christian Cabaniss, the

commanding officer of TFTQ.

Each branch plays its part in the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve’s advise and assist mission. However, while attempting to live up to reputations of the Marines who came before them, the Marines from the I and II



Marine Expeditionary Forces, currently serving in Iraq, leave their footprints in the Marine Corps’ rich history through their significant actions.

“The reputation that the Marine Corps has today – today’s Marines did not earn,” said Cabaniss. “It was built by those generations of Marines who won the great battles of our Corps’ history. We are capable of great things because we stand upon the shoulders of giants.”

While serving as the security force of TFTQ, the Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, attached from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, were responsible for providing security and manning the quick reaction force. More importantly, these individuals aided the advise and assist mission as instructors while training with the ISF.

While 3/7 Marines supported TFTQ, they improved range facilities in order to warrant more effective training between themselves and Coalition Forces.

They constructed a live rocket battle drill range, where Marines and other military personnel now have the capability to employ rockets, while previously only being able to fire the AT4, an 84-mm unguided portable, single-shot recoilless smoothbore weapon. Furthermore, a live hand fragmentation grenade range was completed, providing more high explosive training to the ISF.

It was good to see the young team leaders and squad leaders really start to understand how introduction of a high explosive into a gunfight affects you or the enemy,” said gunnery sergeant of Lima Company. “If you do it and leverage it the correct way, you see what it can do for the higher headquarters and their perspective of the battlefield.



As the Marines of Lima Company returned to the U.S., the Marines of Animal Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, attached from the SPMAGTF, assumed the tasks of their counterparts.

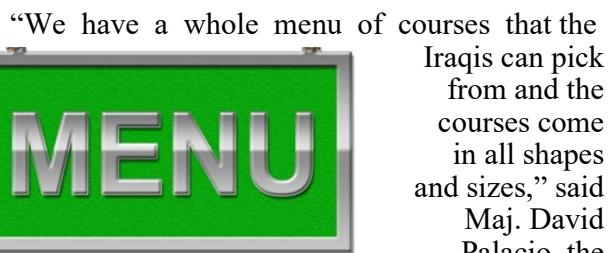
While Lima Company focused on squad and platoon level tactics with the ISF, the Marines of Animal Company are preparing to take on battalion -level training.

Mobile training teams with Task Group Taji, alongside service members with TFTQ, provide operationally relevant training to the ISF through various periods of instruction. A typical

course is broken into two two-week portions: one week of urban training and one week of marksmanship. Other courses provided to the ISF include advanced marksmanship, combat lifesaver, and explosive hazard awareness training.



Iraqi soldiers practice their marksmanship skills during training, 4/17/17



“We have a whole menu of courses that the Iraqis can pick from and the courses come in all shapes and sizes,” said Maj. David Palacio, the

Therefore, the peace in Iraq is ultimately in the hands of the Iraqi soldiers.

With more than 800 Iraqi soldiers trained, the personnel with TFTQ and Task Group Taji hope that their partner forces will utilize the skills they have gained in the future fight and continue training while in their positions.

"It's not just a matter of how many individuals that we can graduate," said Palacio. "The measure of effectiveness will be how well the forces we train do in those final fights against Da'esh – hopefully to finish off ISIS once and for all."

Three Marines with Firepower Control Team M Detachment, 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, SPMAGTF-CR-CC, provided forward observer training to artillery and infantry officers with the 1st, 8th and 10th Iraqi Army Divisions. The progressive two-week course consisted of classroom instruction, which transitioned to observation positions where they used computer simulators to practice adjusting fires and employing proper communications procedures. In the final days of the course, the Iraqi observers called in live 155mm artillery fire missions supported by the 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. By utilizing the Iraqi Call for Fire, rather than the U.S. Call for Fire, the Iraqi soldiers became more proficient in their own techniques.



U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Zachary Weidner, the Iraqi Security Force Development Officer of Task Force Al-Taqaddum, watches as an Iraqi soldier fires a .50-caliber machine gun while training in Iraq.

A second course was conducted for the Iraqi noncommissioned officers from the same Iraqi divisions.

"The two sergeants and one corporal from Firepower Control Team M(-) were able to have an immediate impact on Iraqi Security Force personnel that may employ the new proficiency against ISIS elements in the near term," said Palacio.

The presence of SPMAGTF-CR-CC is seen across TFTQ and nearly a dozen Marines support daily operations in various sections of TFTQ in addition to Animal Company, 1/7.

Palacio stated that without SPMAGTF-CR-CC's support and the help from U.S. Soldiers and Airmen, the Task Force could not function.

"We have Marines from California and North Carolina that are shoulder-to-shoulder with soldiers from New Zealand and Australia. If you point us all in the right direction, we will always try to do our best," said Palacio.

Deploying U.S. Marines into the USCENTCOM area of responsibility to conduct combined military training with our partner nations' security forces strengthens our vital relationships with partners in this strategically important region.

U.S. Marine Corps News

**Marine Corps Aircraft Crashes, Killing 16
Marine Corps Forces Reserves Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs, mfrpao@usmc.mil
July 11, 2017...**

LEFLORE COUNTY, Miss. --

The Marine aircraft that crashed Monday evening was a KC-130T from Marine Aerial Refueling and Transport Squadron (VMGR) 452, Marine Air Group-49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve. The flight originated from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC, as the squadron was supporting a requirement to transport personnel and equipment from there to Naval Air Field El Centro, CA.

The crew and passengers consisted of 15 Marines and one Navy Corpsman. Equipment on board included various small arms ammunition and personal weapons. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team is at the scene as a precaution in the interest of safety.

The identities of the personnel whose lives were lost in this tragic accident are still being withheld to allow time for their loved ones to be notified appropriately. While the details of the incident are being investigated, our focus remains on providing the necessary resources and support to the family and friends of these service members as they go through this extremely difficult time.



Below is an article reprinted with permission of Matthew A. Piliere, who was a MOS 7372 Aerial Navigator as an enlisted, and a 7380 Aerial Navigation Officer, Chief Warrant Officer in VMGR-352, 152, 234 USMC (some of those being multiple stops) and in VMGR-452 USMCR.

Matt is a native New Yorker but his adopted home state is Kentucky. He is married and has one son. Being a former U.S. Marine Corps Aerial Navigator, he retired from UPS as a manager in July of 2016 and is now (in his words) a “flip flop tester.” A lover of the outdoors, blues and classic rock music, fitness activities, and college and pro sports, he loves the New York Mets, the New York Giants, and his Louisville Cardinals. He believes in God.

**Matt & Caroline
Piliere**



Like all my friends who served in the USMC KC-130 community (the VMGR), for the last day and a half my thoughts have been unable to linger anywhere without rushing back to the tragic loss of 15 Marines and 1 Navy Corpsman in the mishap of aircraft 000, operated by VMGR-452, a Marine Reserve squadron – the squadron I flew with in my two and one-half years as a reservist. It was my last squadron. I have been separated from the Marines and Marine Reserve since the summer of 1990, just prior to the first Gulf War. For those of you who don't share that experience, and perhaps more for those who do, please indulge me as I share a few thoughts.

We come into the VMGR mostly as young, green wanna-bees. I was a Lance Corporal Student Navigator, MOS 7371. I checked into VMGR-352 at the now decommissioned MCAS El Toro, in Orange County, CA. When I got there I immediately started meeting the veteran KC-130 people. In the Navigation Shop, there were sergeants and staff sergeants, Warrant Officers, the other corporals and even another lance corporal or two. Newbies like myself start right away to be sucked into the camaraderie. It was a combination of mild hazing and lots of kidding and joking. But there was more to it. All the guys seemed larger than life. The pride and professionalism, the personalities (wow, did they have some personalities!), and the day to day business of going about the task of being a Marine Navigator was all encompassing. These

were the guys you worked with. You spent off duty time with them drinking or taking in a ballgame. We talked shop nearly always, either playing technical “Can you top this?,” asking trivial and serious questions of one another, in between embellished stories of liberty gone bad, the women around El Toro, and out there “on the road.”

Beyond the Navigation Shop was the bigger squadron at large. For Marines attached to each shop, whether Navigation, the Airborne Radio Operator/Loadmasters crew, or Aircraft Maintenance, where all the Flight Engineers and First Mechs came, the shops had their own uniqueness, dictated by the tasks at hand, and by the personalities involved. I'd be remiss not to mention all the maintenance Marines: Prop Shop, Flight Line, Avionics, Metal Shop, Maintenance Control, etc. ... dedicated professionals (and some pretty colorful personalities) who made the airplanes work so we could do our jobs, which was to support Marines in the field who do the ugly work of protecting freedom for everyone back home when the s*** hits the fan. But we were all in it together, and we all knew it. From the outset, we all knew we were operating machines that could one day get you killed, even if you did everything right, so you were damned determined to do everything right.

The officers, not the Navigator Warrant Officers... I mean the Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, and Lt. Colonels... they were there, too. Around squadron spaces many of them were in charge of various Aircraft Maintenance shops or S-1 (Admin), S-2 (Intel), many S-3 (Operations) or S-4 (Supply). But mostly, we knew those guys as our pilots. Our pilots. OUR PILOTS.

We flew as a crew. A standard crew was six Marines, all of us men in those days. Aircraft Commander, Co-Pilot, Flight Engineer, Navigator, Airborne Radio Operator/Loadmaster, and Flight Mechanic. Nobody... not the pilots, not the crew, nobody... earned qualification easily.

I can't in a short post explain how rigorous the qualification process was for each of us in every crew position. I'll simply tell you that there were many washouts. There were many, many long and difficult days where as a Student Navigator under the watch of one more experienced we were tested and put through a meat grinder of mental gymnastics to ensure we knew what we needed to know and could do what we needed to do. The other crew positions were the same, so that by the time we were qualified, it didn't matter who you were flying with, you were sure when the s*** hit the fan, that the crew you were with could handle their share of

it if you could handle yours. The qualification process made absolutely sure of that.

We didn't fly as assigned crews like I've been told the USAF crews did. We flew based on a Flight Schedule that was published every day. So, in a given month I might have flown with four, five or six different Flight Engineers, Mechs, and Airborne Radio Operators. Over a course of time you pretty much got to know everyone.

In my flying days, initially there were only four squadrons: three active duty and one reserve squadron. Later a training squadron was added, and then a second reserve unit, VMGR-452, the Yankees of New York. The small size of the community and the limited number of MOSs assigned to them meant that within the community transfers between units moved us from one to the next and next, and back to the first, etc. And because everyone else did the same, eventually everyone knew everyone. And if you didn't know them, you knew *of* them, as sea stories and tales of exploits on and off the airplanes was perhaps the most prevalent thing talked about as part of and defining our culture.

And over the course of time we grew tight. Bonded to each other, to our Marine Corps at large, but most especially to the Marines of the VMGR, whatever the MOS, and whenever the time served, it is nothing if not a brotherhood. You tell me someone was a Marine KC-130 Flight Engineer, Radio Operator or Navigator, and I know enough about them to accept there is a bond there before I really know the individual. And something else I've learned, now 27 years removed from the cockpit, is that the bond doesn't diminish over time, at least not for me. The more time passes, the more meaningful it is. I joined the Marine Corps Air Transport Association as a way to exercise the privilege of sharing that bond with these great Marines, even if we're fatter and have less hair than in lean, green, Marine days.

And twice since I left the Corps there have been accidents. When aircraft 021 crashed in Afghanistan in 2002, my sadness was profound. The thought I couldn't shake was that a Navigator who sat in the plane I had flown was lost. And why was I so lucky that I had been spared a similar fate? I had seen some pretty hairy situations that could easily have turned tragic, but not for the skills of the guys I operated with, and damned sure the grace of God and perhaps dumb luck, I hadn't met my end that way. But I *always* knew I very well could have, and the accident made me know it and feel it someplace even deeper in my bones, flesh, soul, and mind.

And now on July 10, 2017, another KC-130 mishap... fifteen Marines and a brave Navy Corpsman. Marines who did what I did. Marines I never met, but who I feel like I know. The names haven't been released. I never met a one, but I find myself wanting to see the names, so I can know which brothers I have lost this time. And perhaps it's a sentimentality that comes with age, but the grief I feel for the families and for the squadron mates doesn't feel distant and palatable, like when I hear some people killed in a far-off land from a tsunami or earthquake or even a terrorist's act. No. It feels close at hand, and deep in my heart, more like losing family or a close friend than anything else. At the end of the day we were a family, and we are a family. Time and distance doesn't diminish family. It can't and it shouldn't.

So, I await the names of the Marines lost with great anxiety. Yes. My brothers (and sisters?) have been called home. I pray that God has a place for each of them in Heaven. And I reflect on how lucky I am to be here. I think of the scene at the Normandy cemetery at the end of "*Saving Private Ryan*." Ryan stands, looking at the Captain's grave marker. "Tell me I have lived a good life." "What?" "Tell me I am a good man." What makes me worthy to still be here and these young Marines gone? I don't know, but I know that everything I ever had and who I have ever been is what was lost there in a soybean field in Mississippi, and it breaks my heart. My heart is broken in a thousand little pieces.

Rest in peace, Marines. May God bless and comfort your families and friends. Amen.

Marine Corps Releases Identities of 16 Servicemen Killed in KC-130T Crash

By Megan Eckstein, USNI News
July 14, 2017...

The Marine Corps released the identities of the 15 Marines and one sailor killed in this week's KC-130T crash in Mississippi.

The 16 servicemen come from reserve unit Marine Air Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 452 based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, NY, and 2nd Raider Battalion based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC. They range from nearly 23 years of experience in the Marine Corps to less than two; have deployed to the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific; and come from communities all throughout the country.

Maj. Caine M. Goyette, 41, USMC, Waterford, NY
 Capt. Sean E. Elliott, 30, USMC, Orange, CA
 GySgt. Mark A. Hopkins, 34, USMC, Chesapeake, VA
 GySgt. Brendan Johnson, 45, USMC, Chittenden, VT
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Snowden, 31, USMC, Dallas, TX
 Sgt. Julian Kevianne, 31, USMC, Dallas, TX
 Sgt. Owen Lennon, 26, USMC, Rockland, NY
 Cpl. Daniel Baldassare, 20, USMC, Monmouth, NJ
 Cpl. Collin Schaaff, 22, USMC, Pierce, WA
 Staff Sgt. Robert Cox, 28, USMC, Ventura, CA
 Staff Sgt. William Kundrat, 33, USMC, Frederick, MD
 Sgt. Chad Jenson, 25, USMC, Los Angeles, CA
 Sgt. Talon Leach, 27, USMC, Callaway, MO
 Sgt. Joseph Murray, 26, USMC, Duval, FL
 Sgt. Dietrich Schmieman, 26, USMC, Benton, WA
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Lohrey, 30, USN,
 Middletown, IN



Marine Corps History

CODE OF CONDUCT

(Excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright

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During the Korean War in the early 1950s, the Chinese Army and North Korean Army captured some American military men. These American prisoners then faced a deadly new enemy, the *Eastern World's* POW environment.

For the American prisoners, brutal torture, random genocide, lack of food, absence of medical aid, and subhuman treatment became a daily way of life. Many of the Americans found that their training had not prepared them for this *new battlefield*.

After the war the American armed forces jointly developed a Code of Conduct. The President of the United States approved this written code in 1955. The six articles of the code create a comprehensive guide for all American military forces in time of war, and in time of peace. The articles of the code embrace (1) general statements of dedication to the United States and to the cause of freedom, (2) conduct on the battlefield, and (3) conduct as a prisoner of war.

The new Code of Conduct is not a part of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Instead, the Code of Conduct is a personal conduct mandate

for members of the American armed forces throughout the world.

Article I: I am an American, fighting in the armed forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

Article II: I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

Article III: If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

Article IV: If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

Article V: When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service, number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

Article VI: I will never forget that I am an American, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.



Upcoming Events



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



Department of Texas Fall Staff Meeting
Marriott Hotel South @ Hobby Airport
9100 Gulf Fwy., Houston, TX
October 19th - 22nd, 2017



Marine Military Expo Marine West Exhibition
Marine Corps Base
Camp Pendleton, CA
February 7th - 8th, 2018
(tentative)

MCL National Mid-Winter Conference
Fredericksburg, VA
March 1st - 3rd, 2018



Marine Military Expo Marine South Exhibition
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, NC
April 11th -12th, 2018



Department of Texas State Convention
Hampton Inn & Suites
240 S. Hasler Blvd., Bastrop, TX
June 28th - 30th, 2018

MCL National Convention
Buffalo, NY
August 12th - 17th, 2018



Marine Military Expo Modern Day Marine
Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
September 25th – 27th, 2018
(tentative)

DEADLINE



for the
Texas Marine
FALL Edition
will be
October 15th

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

MARINE

By 1st Sgt David Webb, Jacksonville Detachment

From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli,
We are the greatest fighting force the nation will ever see,
We will fight in any clime and place where we can take a gun,
But when the enemy sees us coming they will turn around and run,
But if they choose to stand and fight they will fight and die in vain,
For we fight for glory in honor of the name,

MARINE.

1st Sgt Web wrote this poem when a LCpl in 1964 standing duty on post #2 back gate on the Navy base in Morocco trying to stay awake.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

2017 Fall Staff Conference

October 19th - 22nd • Houston, TX

Sponsor: Galveston County Detachment

HOTEL: Marriott Hotel South @ Hobby Airport (9100 Gulf Fwy. - I45)
\$95/night with complimentary breakfast included
Reservations: (713) 943-7979

DEADLINE: September 30, 2017



REGISTRATION: MCL Member - \$5/person; MCLA Member - \$5/person
DEADLINE: October 12, 2017



EVENTS: Friday Night Activity - \$15
Saturday Night Banquet: Beef & Chicken Buffet - \$45/person
DEADLINE: October 12, 2017

*Make check payable to "Galveston County MCL Detachment #668," and
Mail to: Richard Torres, Conference Chairperson,
3603 Spring Canyon Trail, Round Rock, TX 78681 • Email: torgr@aol.com*



PROGRAM ADS:

Inside Front Cover/Inside Back Cover/Back Cover ... \$150

Full Page .. \$100 Half Page .. \$ 50

Qtr Page .. \$ 25 Business Card .. \$ 20

DEADLINE: October 1, 2017



*Make check payable to "Galveston County MCL Det. #668."
Send ads and checks to: Bernie O'Dell, 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450
or email ads to: bernieodell@sbcglobal.net.
For questions, call Bernie @ (940) 549-3944 (H) or (940) 550-5711 (C)*

