Happy 240th Birthday to all of my Marine brothers and sisters! I hope all of you have the opportunity to celebrate the Marine Birthday on November 10th. I have attended many birthday celebrations and it never gets old.

This year, I will be an honored guest at two Marine Corps Birthday Balls. I will celebrate with the 1st Sgt. Joyce Venable Detachment in Beaumont on November 7th and with the Rose City and Jacksonville Detachments in Tyler on November 14th. It will be such a pleasure to celebrate with my fellow League members. As we honor our beloved Corps, I will be thinking of each and every one of you and hoping that you will be able to celebrate in your own localities.
On Veterans Day, November 11th, we remind our fellow citizens of the sacrifices veterans have performed to protect this country from foreign aggression. I encourage all of you to enjoy this holiday which is dedicated to you, to participate in your local parades, and to show the United States Marine Corps Colors. Patriotic events, such as the Veterans Day Parade, are wonderful opportunities to solicit new members for your individual Detachments.

With respect to the Department of Texas membership and retention, we are doing very well. The Department presented a new Charter to the LCpl. Jacob D. Hayes Detachment #1426 in McKinney, TX, and we have potentially two more Detachments forming.

We are very fortunate to have a great group of Department Officers who have contributed to the Department’s successes. They are some of the hardest working group of Marines with whom I have had the pleasure to serve. I ask each of you to assist your Department Officers by using the chain of command. Please give your Department Officers an opportunity to solve your issue before you contact any of our National Officers.

I do need your assistance with some very basic procedures that allow each Detachment to operate efficiently. Needed are prompt and correct submission of:

1) Transmittals,
2) Request for Transfer,
3) Officer Installations,
4) Life Member Audits,
5) Death Notices, and
6) The all important 990NP.

Your Department Officers are ready and able to assist you in completing this mission. Let us know how we can help.

I thank all of you for your support and cooperation. Your Department of Texas is in sound condition and within budget. I hope to continue to meet and exceed your expectations.

Senior's Segment

Robert D. Way
Department of Texas
Sr. Vice Commandant
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It’s time! Time for what? Glad you asked!

It is the year 2015. We have been in the 21st century for 15 years and technology has made great strides forward to make life a little easier and efficient. Frustrating at times, too. Unfortunately, not all Detachment Officers are taking advantage of this progress. They are trying to operate with mid-20th century methods. It is time for them to enter the 21st century and start learning how to use the programs available to them so that they can better lead their Detachments. Communications from National Headquarters, Division and Departments are now coming via the internet, email, etc.; in other words, electronically. It is faster and more cost efficient, plus the information gets out to more members. Forms and reports can now be filled out and submitted online. Faster, no postage and the person receiving them can read them. No more hieroglyphics to interpret.
A Detachment Officer’s position is more than just a title. It is a leadership position of responsibility. Everything your unit does - or does not do - is usually a direct reflection upon the leadership of that unit. If you are not sure of how to do something, ask questions. Get on the website and read the by-laws, admin instructions, etc. If you can’t find it, contact the Department Officer responsible for the program you are having problems with. All Officers have the responsibility to provide the best leadership possible to the members of the Marine Corps League. One way to do this is by practicing a certain leadership trait: **Know Yourself and Seek Self-Improvement.** We are a team. By working together and helping each other we can only make ourselves stronger and better as a Department.

We have been working on the new activity form and are hoping to have it online by the November report. One major change is that the report will be a **monthly report.** **No more quarterly reports.** This report will also do away with the Youth Activity Report. All youth activities will be reported on the Activity Report. Otherwise it basically remains like the current report form. Instructions will be included online with the Activity Report.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

**Happy Holidays!**

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**Junior’s Journal**

Charles “Chuck” Bones  
Department of Texas Jr. Vice Commandant  
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**The Marine Corps League**  
is alive and well thanks to members who have taken time out of their day to help in some way, no matter how small the effort. Everything we do helps our active duty Marines, and our currently unassigned Marines/members. When we take part in our community, take part in a League function, or something as small as opening, or holding a door for someone, it helps promote the values and preserve the traditions, not only of the Marine Corps, but of America as well.

Some very important changes have been made under the leadership of our Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman. I have seen the Detachments come together on issues like never before. Your Department Officers listen to you, the members of the League, and most of the changes have been a direct result of your input. The Fall Staff Meeting is upon us and I look forward to seeing you there. I hope to discuss some interesting projects we have on the horizon that will honor and recognize Detachments that… well, let’s just say we need your input. I believe a face-to-face discussion/eye contact/hand shake, is good for the soul. I understand that sometimes we can’t make it to our League’s conferences due to conflicts with other equally important scheduled events in
our lives or, Heaven forbid, a tragedy. So if you can’t make it we will make sure you get the information after the conference.

Pride, honor, and commitment - to our family, to our brothers, to our Nation, and to ourselves - breathes life into the Corps, the League, and the United States of America.

The League is about Marines, family members of Marines, and our community. No matter what you do, remember that you have at the very least helped by joining the League.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me.

Until we meet again, be safe, and keep your powder dry.

James Gulley
Department of Texas Judge Advocate
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james.gulley@texasmcl.org

During the last quarter I have had many discussions with various Detachment Commandants regarding issues with their Detachments which were properly channeled through the Department Commandant, Charles Ynman. These issues were resolved with the approval of the Commandant and disseminated to the Vice Commandants for distribution to the Detachments.

The Department Adjutant, Polly Weidenkopf, provided me all of the financial documents in order to do the required annual audit for the Department. I completed the audit and the Department of Texas is in good standing in all areas. Thanks to Polly for her always efficient handling of these matters.

I want to emphasize the importance of the chain of command for issues that arise within each Detachment for which they wish an opinion from myself or the Commandant. The Detachment should address the issue with their Judge Advocate. It is highly recommended that issues be resolved at the Detachment level. However, if that is not possible, then the issue should be forwarded to the District Vice Commandant, then to the Department Commandant, who will then forward it to me for a formal opinion. If necessary, I can contact the National Judge Advocate for an opinion. However, the National Judge Advocate will not accept a request for an opinion unless this protocol is followed. Hopefully, your Detachments will never need to go to this level. I am always available for informal discussions, but if a formal opinion is needed then follow these guidelines.

Dennis Bradford
Department of Texas Chaplain
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There is once more an opportunity to speak about the issues involved with the job of Department Chaplain. As far as I can observe at this point, the issue causing some concern is the process of reporting the passing of one of our brothers or sisters.

While “paperwork” always seems intimidating at least, and overwhelming at most, in this case it is relatively simple. The League provides a simple...
form which, when completed, gives National all the necessary information to place the deceased member in the proper category. The form is normally filled out by the Detachment Chaplain and forwarded through the system.

Firstly, insure that all information you provide is complete and correct. If it isn’t correct, it will only cause problems later. Once there, be sure to remove the bottom copy and keep it for your records. Then send the rest of the form to the Department Chaplain, not the Department Adjutant/Paymaster! The Chaplain will forward the information to National Headquarters. It is only after National admin receives the form that the appropriate adjustments may and will be made to League and Detachment records. The form takes just a couple of minutes, but keeping accurate records makes it time well spent. Once received by National, another form will be sent to replace the one used.

I know that there is, sometimes, a tendency to procrastinate, as if leaving our brother or sister on the rolls will somehow keep them with us. I have felt that way more than once. Just bear in mind that as long as we remember, they are never gone. Semper Fi not only means “Always Faithful,” it also means, “Always Remember.”

Until next time, take care of each other.

**Sergeant-At-Arms Summary**

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**HERE’S AN UPDATE** on the Department flags as of now:

Thanks to the donation of Sr. Vice Commandant Bob Way we have acquired one new American flag, two silver flat spearheads, and two wooden flag staffs (the staffs have silver mid staff connectors and top/bottom silver ferrules).

The condition of our Department Marine Corps League flag has to be considered humble at best, because of its age and repairs (in the past and here lately). It also has a stain that will not come out. It has been tried by the past Sergeant-At-Arms and myself to get professionals to remove the stain.

The Department Commandant has asked the Department Board of Trustees for permission to replace the Department Marine Corps League flag. We now have permission to do so. I’m in search of a company that can do the job. The problem is getting a company that can embroider a two-sided flag and have more than a 13” spread of the eagle’s wings. As I have informed all the Marines I’ve seen lately, if by chance you know someone who could accomplish this task, please send me an email with the name and telephone number so I can contact them. My email address is crborel@att.net. I would appreciate the information as well as any assistance.

We do have three companies at this time checking with their sources to work up a bid for the job. I feel the more companies the better; it can help drive the price down. At this time we do not know the exact price but we’re expecting it to be in the neighborhood of $1,200 to $1,600. That is why we want to check all avenues we can to lower the cost. We also want the finished product to be the best quality we can get for our money. We’re taking an extra good look at the details of the flag when it comes to the craftsmanship of this product we’re buying. It’s going to have to last a while at these prices, as the old one has.

Any member wishing to talk about the flags, or the procedures or position of Sergeant-At-Arms in general – feel free to call me on my cell
(936-552-6823) and we’ll chat. I don’t claim to have all the answers but if I don’t know I will be glad to help you find the answer. If I don’t answer, please leave a message and I will return your call.

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

Submitted by Juanita O’Dell, Editor
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Some of the highlights since publication of the August 2015 newsletter are:

The U.S. Declared War on Veteran Homelessness – And It Actually Could Win

By Quil Lawrence, NPR
August 4, 2015...

This is a tale of two cities. In New Orleans, there are signs of hope that veteran homelessness can be solved. But Los Angeles presents a very different picture.

Under the deafening highway noise of the Pontchartrain Expressway in central city New Orleans, Ronald Engberson, 54, beds down for the night. Engberson got out of the Marines in 1979, plagued even back then by problems with drugs and alcohol. He says that’s mostly the reason he’s been homeless the past 10 years.

“My longest stretch sober was 14 months,” he says. “Being out there on the streets, it’s tough.”

About 50,000 vets are homeless in America. In 2009, then Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki declared that all of them would have housing by this year. At the time, even inside the VA that goal was considered aspirational at best. But last year, cities across the country said it was looking achievable. New Orleans was the first to declare, in January, that the city had done it.

So if New Orleans has zero homeless vets, why was there a Marine sleeping under the expressway?

It’s called “functional zero,” according to Melissa Haley, Director of Supportive Services at Volunteers of America in New Orleans.

“Homelessness is a continuous process. There’s a veteran right now who is in a home who could very well be homeless tomorrow,” she says. “Functional zero is defined as having a process and the resources in place where we can immediately house a veteran.”

So, if a vet loses a job today, misses the rent and gets evicted in New Orleans, the city can get him or her housed within a month. Haley says it’s often faster; they got Marine Corps veteran Ronald Engberson housed in one day.

Daniel Harmon, a veteran of the wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq, looks out the window of his room at the Hollywood Veterans Center in Los Angeles. The facility provides housing to homeless vets. David Gilkey/NPR

Marine Corps veteran Ronald Engberson says alcoholism had made it hard to keep a job and an apartment. His new apartment has few possessions, but he is clean and sober. David Gilkey/NPR

Volunteers of America Everyday Miracles

A Volunteers of America caseworker, DaVaughn Phillips, met Engberson under the expressway and started asking him questions from a survey. When he
heard Engberson’s name, he looked down at a list on his clipboard.

“Mr. Engberson, we’ve been looking for you!” Phillips said. “When you said Ronald Engberson, I’m almost about to get up and shout!”

Nonprofits, the New Orleans VA, and the Mayor’s office now coordinate to keep one constantly updated list of homeless veterans. Because Engberson was on the list, his military record had already been confirmed, and Phillips could get him into an apartment.

The next morning Phillips met Engberson by the expressway overpass and took him to a modest, clean apartment. First thing Engberson did was shave off his ragged beard.

“Last night I was under the bridge,” Engberson said. “I’m thankful I’m inside. I have AC, don’t have to deal with the rain, the lightning, people walking up on you all the time.”

New Orleans went from 470 homeless vets in 2011 to functional zero today, using what are now considered best practices – such as the master list – and powered by a huge cash injection from Washington.

“We’ve been able to house more vets in the last five years than at any point in our history... 30-plus years,” Vince Kane, special assistant to the VA Secretary, says of the agency’s housing programs. “In the past, both inside and outside of VA, we were focused on models more about managing homeless than on ending homelessness,” Kane says.

Part of that shift is to embrace a philosophy called “housing first.”

“It’s about getting guys in housing first and then treating whatever ails them afterwards,” says Kevin Kincey, who does outreach for the group U.S. Vets in Los Angeles.

“Back in 2005, to come into a program... you needed to be sober,” Kincey says. “[Now] once you get in housing, if you need substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, they’ll wrap that around you.”

Kincey says he’s seen housing-first programs arrive just recently in Los Angeles – which VA officials acknowledge is lagging behind many other cities in the race toward the goal.

LA has the most homeless vets in the country. It also has a housing shortage that makes it hard to find places even with the funding available. And there were other problems – the Los Angeles VA was embroiled in a lawsuit about misuse of resources. Kane was sent this year from headquarters to get the Los Angeles VA back on track.

Still, LA would need to house 3,000 more homeless vets by the end of the year to reach zero, and no one expects it to happen on schedule. Angelenos say it’s not fair to compare the scale of their homeless problem to smaller cities like Houston or New Orleans.

“They’ve all done great work, but no one has done as much as Los Angeles has done in total volume,” says Greg Spiegel, who advises the Mayor of Los Angeles on homelessness.

For perspective, New Orleans housed 227 vets last year to reach zero. Los Angeles housed about that many last month and the month before that. LA has found homes for about 4,000 veterans since January 2014. But Spiegel says as fast as they can house them, about seven more veterans become homeless every day in L.A.

“That inflow of vets becoming homeless is so big, it essentially neutralized the incredible progress we made. That had never been done before and is more than anywhere else in the country,” Spiegel says.
Many of the vets becoming newly homeless are from recent wars, raising fears of another generation of combat vets winding up spending a life on the streets.

“I don’t want to see these guys homeless 40 years from now,” says Jim Zenner, who runs the Hollywood Veterans Center, a barracks-style halfway house for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Zenner moved to LA when he got back from Iraq in 2008 and started pursuing a master’s degree in social work at University of Southern California. The war still had a grip on him, though – even the LA freeway reminded him of routes he had driven in Iraq. Anger and depression put him on edge. At home with his wife and kids, he’d yell so loud the neighbors would call the cops.

“The fourth time the police… basically told me that if one of us don’t leave the house, then they’re going to take our kids. So I packed my stuff, slept in the car that night and then got a hotel room, took my oldest son, and we stayed there for four days,” he says.

After that, he had nowhere to go. He and his wife were both students. They were living off loans and GI bill money – not enough to pay two rents in Los Angeles.

He went to the VA for help, but none of the shelters at that time would take in a father and son. Then a place run by Volunteers of America did him a favor and bent the rules to house them both. He stayed seven months. Then they asked him for a favor.

“I did some volunteer work for them,” Zenner says. “And in early 2010 they offered me a position to take an empty building and turn it into a readjustment facility for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.”

That facility looks a bit like one of the makeshift barracks troops made out of buildings in Iraq and Afghanistan – right down to the free weights and boxing gear in the covered alley next to the building. There’s a TV lounge and a group therapy room, too.

“They try to get us to talk about it, but you know how vets are. We like to talk about it privately. And that’s the stuff that helps out the most,” says Joe Scogan, who did two combat tours to Iraq.

After a divorce he wound up living in his truck. He went to stay at a VA housing program before landing at the Hollywood Veterans Center this May.

“At the VA, I was there with some Vietnam vets, and they were great. But it really helps being with guys that you went through something with. They’re different wars,” Scogan says.

Zenner says his mission is to be flexible and fit treatment around school and job possibilities, even if it means bending the rules, like they did for him when he and his son had nowhere to stay.

He’s got mixed feelings about the goal of ending homelessness.

“I don’t think it’s possible,” says Zenner. “And the play-with-words like ‘functional zero’ and all that crap – I don’t like to do that. Everybody knows in LA it’s not going to end in 2015. [But] it’s a good way to get people to work extra hard.”

The deadline also has some worried.

“My fear is that someone will claim victory at the end of this year and funding will start going away,” says Steve Peck, President of U.S. Vets.

He’s already seeing it happen. This summer Peck planned to raise funds for a homeless veterans’ event in Houston. Then the city declared in June that it had reached “functional zero.”

“It was only weeks after that we began making calls to our community partners to help us. We get donations from all over. And one of them actually said, ‘Well, wait a minute, I thought we’d ended this.’”

Peck worries that once the deadline passes with the end of this year, the momentum in Washington will disappear, regardless of how many vets are still living on the street.

(Based on the 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, the state of Texas had an estimated number of homeless veterans in 2009 of 5,491 and in 2014 it decreased by 50.5% to 2,718.)

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

Jim Zenner (right) runs the Hollywood Veterans Center.
David Gilkey/NPR
WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. The updated regulation will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist individuals entering VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

“As I have traveled to VA facilities throughout the country, I have heard from many Veterans about what a vital role their service animals play in their lives,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “The revised regulation will ensure Veterans and employees have clear guidance regarding the presence of service animals in our facilities. VA remains committed to ensuring America’s Veterans have access to the health care benefits for which they are eligible.”

Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised.

In accordance with required practices, the revised regulation was published in the Federal Register in November 2014, to obtain feedback from Veterans, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders.

Over the next thirty days, VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation.

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NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

Your nomination(s) for Southern Division Marine of the Year is due February 1st, 2016.

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

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

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

The Southern Division Marine of the Year Society

Marines who have been formerly honored as Southern Division Marine of the Year shall assume the privilege of membership in the Southern Division Marine of the Year Society. The Society is charged with receiving and reviewing current nominations for the Marine of the Year award and selects a spokesperson from among their membership to name their selection for the Southern Division Marine of the Year at the Southern Division Conference.

The Past Southern Division Marines of the Year:
Tom Miller, Helen Hicks, Clif Williams, Ken Henry, Ken Watterson, Polly Weidenkopf, Johnny Gothard, Bernie O’Dell, Randy Rigg, Marty McKnight, John Henry Mashunkashey and Alex Azar.

*Harry Bruce

Procedure for Handling Nominations – Southern Division Marine of the Year

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

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

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

Submitted by Randy Rigg
Southern Division Nat’l. Vice Commandant
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It is a new day for the Marine Corps League and we are going to move forward into the 21st century as one of the premier Veterans’ organizations in this country.

The National Marine Corps League Board of Trustees has had to make some hard decisions during the last few months and we are far from finished.

I hope most of you have seen the new website and the availability of all your forms on that site. If not you need to explore it because once the paper forms at National Headquarters are gone they will not be reordered and everyone will have to secure the forms from the website. There are also additional changes being planned to better serve the Detachments so please plan on attending your Department of Texas meetings, and District trainings so that you can keep up with all that will be going on over the next year.

I want to thank all of you who have been working so hard on recruiting and retention of members as it has paid off with the Southern Division taking first place at National Convention for increased membership. I have also noticed on my Detachment status spreadsheet a huge increase in Detachments submitting their ROI on time, IRS paperwork, and working on reduction of unpaid membership. These are all things that lead to successful Detachments and the overall growth in our organization.

Again, thanks and good luck to all of you.
Welcome aboard to our newest Detachment, LCpl. Jacob D. Hayes #1426, in McKinney.

Commandant Nathan Hanson, along with his staff and members, gave a grand Texas welcome to all in attendance at the Charter Ceremony in August.

Thanks to all who came out to show their support. And a very special thank you to our other District 2 detachments. All were represented at the ceremony.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Members of the Detachment also attended the Ft. Bliss POW/MIA ceremony, where four former POWs from WW II and the Korean War were recognized. Members from the Detachment also attended a Korean War Memorial dedication ceremony.

Over 150 homeless veterans were fed breakfast and lunch. They also had the opportunity to get information and counseling from various VA programs and community and civic organizations. Additionally, they were provided some boots, clothing, packs and other items.

(L-R) Connie Pena, Pete Gomez, & Bob Way at Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

Detachment had another successful and busy quarter. Members of the Detachment assisted with the El Paso VA Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

At the MCL National Convention the Deane Hawkins Detachment was awarded the Gil Gray Americanism Award.

El Paso District Representative presenting plaques to former POWs at the Ft. Bliss POW/MIA Ceremony.

Korean War Veterans at Korean War Memorial Dedication.
The Detachment and the El Paso Young Marines helped do the ceremony at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the end of WW II. The Young Marines provided a Color Guard as well as Young Marines to place a wreath on each of the Armed Forces seals. The Marine Honor Detail conducted a Firing Detail for the ceremony.

The Detachment hosted the 8th Annual “No Skills Field Meet” for the local JROTC units. Even though it rained and we had to hold the event inside the gym, we had 20 teams (the most ever) participating in this year’s event. Well over 300 students competed and they all had a great time.

The Detachment, working with the local Purple Heart Chapter and the Vietnam Veterans, was able to organize various veteran, community and civic organizations to welcome the “Spirit of 45 Convoy” to El Paso and provide them with a noon time meal. This turned out to be a great event. The two hours that we were able to spend with each other was memorable for everyone. They did not leave hungry. There were about 500 people at this event.

(The “Spirit of 45 Convoy” is America’s longest Veterans Day Parade in history in the form of WWII vintage vehicles organized by members of the Military Vehicles Preservation Association. The convoy departed from Fort Belvoir, VA, on Saturday, September 19th, to drive 3,000 miles across America to arrive in San Diego’s Balboa Park on Saturday, October 19th. This parade symbolizes the return of millions of G.I.s to reunite with their families and communities in the fall of 1945.)

The El Paso Young Marines conducted water safety and survival classes at the Ft. Bliss aquatic center. They also did “Adopt A Highway,” provided Color Guards for various organizations, and participated in this year’s “Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease.”

The Deane Hawkins Detachment now is gearing up for the Veterans Day Parade, Marine Corps Birthday, and Toys for Tots.
**District 5**

Submitted by James Andrews  
*District Vice Commandant  
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I want to take a moment to congratulate our new Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman and all of the newly elected Officers. District 5 looks forward to working closely with all of them in keeping an open line of communication while promoting the advancement of the Detachments and the Department.

It is with great pride that I also recognize that all eight Detachments had representation at the 2015 Department of Texas State Convention. This is a big effort and I want to personally thank all of the Commandants for making the effort to be present or send a representative.

In addition, let’s mention just some of the multiple awards presented to Detachments within District 5 at the State Convention:

- **1st Place, Category 3, Activity Award**  
  Eastex Detachment

- **1st Place, Category 2, Americanism Award**  
  Brazoria County Detachment

- **Job well done to Brazoria County Detachment**  
  Supporting Marines, helping Marines through the Alamo Detachment to the tune of $2,000.

As District 5 Vice Commandant, I have been working to get all communications passed on to the Detachment Commandants and membership within a timely manner. Some of this has been challenging due to some members’ lack of email or use of technology. We have found ways to work around that by calling or texting.

Updating 990 statuses have been especially challenging due to several Detachments having rather large financial turnover, forcing them to file the long form. Most Detachments are not having difficulty with the short form.

The same can be said for the PLM Audits. Completing the audit and reconciling the actual roster can be a challenge if left undone for several years. I will continue to work with the Detachments to get this completed.

2015 has been a great year. I look forward to what 2016 brings. District 5 will work diligently with State and National to insure that the MCL shall grow and prosper throughout the coming year.

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**District 6**

Submitted by Robert Hurtado  
*District Vice Commandant  
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The activities I’ve participated in since my election to District Vice in June are:

- July 4th - Attended celebration of fireworks
- July 28th – Attended Laredo Detachment Meeting
- August 8th – Talked to Marine wanting to join League; passed information to Robert Way
August 9th – 14th – Attended National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ.

August 20th – Participated in funeral escort for U.S. Army veteran

August 31st – Received email from Marine in Tri State Gung Ho 909 Detachment in Pike County, PA. He is being relocated to South Texas and needed information on a Detachment here.

September 7th – Attended flag ceremonies at Riverhill Country Club in Corpus Christi

September 14th – Attended Jack Ringel Detachment – working with them to get the Detachment up to par.

October 12th – Another visit to Jack Ringel Detachment

District 7

Submitted by Michael English
District Vice Commandant
(507) 934-4428 (C) • michael.english@texasmcl.org

Since taking over as District 7 Vice Commandant I have had the opportunity to visit and attend 80% (4 of 5), of the Detachment meetings in my district. I have not visited the Heart of Texas Detachment; however, I am looking forward to getting into their area soon.

In July I attended the Pecan Valley Detachment meeting and conducted the Installation of Officers. Not all officers were present at the meeting with a low attendance of members. The meeting was well run overall and I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with the members. They were making plans for a membership drive and working to bring the activity of participation up.

In August I attended the National MCL Convention and participated in the Commandants Council and other MCL daily meetings.

In October I attended Tarrant County Detachment. Their meeting is held on Saturday morning in a church and the setup of the meeting was great. The meeting was conducted well with some Officers not present and low membership participation. The main issue to attend to was the Toys for Tots program moving in soon. There was a guest Marine there looking to join the Detachment and hopefully will be a member soon. There were a couple of issues that I discussed with the Commandant about uniforms and covers.

I also attended the Longhorn Detachment in October. The meeting was very well run, very organized, with much business to be discussed because of the Department Fall Staff Meeting they are sponsoring. There was a good showing and good participation of the Detachment membership. No issues found in this Detachment.

The Department Commandant requested follow-up on 990s. Three of our Detachments have them completed; one is in the mail; and the other one I am still working on. I will work on getting us to 100%.

Alamo Detachment
San Antonio

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

Marines shoot to help other Marines
On May 30th, 2015, the Alamo Chapter 1st Marine Division Association held its 3rd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser. The event was a big success on many levels. The members of the association work hard to put on a shoot that raises funds to support scholarships and other programs that help Marines and their families.

Shooters are mostly made up of local sporting clay enthusiasts who enjoy the sport. Another group of shooters are soldiers and Marines recovering from injuries received from combat while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. These men and women, these Wounded Warriors, enjoy the challenge and camaraderie that takes place each year. Through local sponsors, each of the Wounded Warriors is able to shoot for free. Everyone is given a nice lunch and then a silent auction is held. All proceeds go to help Marines’ local educational scholarships and programs in San Antonio including the Young Marines program.

The Alamo Detachment #315 received a donation in the amount of $1,500 from this year’s shoot and has donated over $4,000 in total from past years.

I would like to acknowledge my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Alamo Chapter 1st Marine Division Association for their support. “Semper Fidelis.”

In 2016, their Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser is being held on Saturday, May 28th. If you enjoy sporting clays shooting, visit www.sanantonio1stmarinedivisionassociation.org for more information.

2015 Annual Fundraiser

Alamo Detachment Annual Fundraising Raffle is about to get underway. This year we are raffling off some great prizes like a 55” flat screen TV, a Masterbuilt Smoker with digital remote control with four separate food compartments, a spa package from Spa d’sante and a $25 gift card.

Funds are to support scholarships and Marines Helping Marines. If anyone would like to purchase raffle tickets contact Orlando Garza at AlamoDet315MCL@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday Marines

The Alamo Detachment would like to wish all the Detachments of the Marine Corps League a safe and happy 240th Marine Corps Birthday.
I am so ready for some cooler weather! Seems that Arizona heat from the National Convention followed us back to Texas to keep us hotter a little longer!! I really enjoyed attending my first National Convention in Scottsdale. It was hot, but it was fun! Thanks to the Department of Arizona for hosting a great convention.

Myself and Big D member John Grafflin (also the District 2 Vice Commandant) both moved up to PDD during the convention. We had some crazy stuff to go through during the initiation process but it was worth it! Member John Shook moved up to Devil Dog at the State Convention in San Antonio and member Steve Wilson became a pup at our Growl in September. Woof! Woof!

I enjoyed reading the Associate Member’s Analysis from Larry Webber of the McLemore Detachment in the last Texas Marine issue. I know I truly appreciate our Detachment’s Associate members. Their participation and dedicated work help make Big D the successful Detachment that it is… so a BIG THANK YOU to our Associate members! Congratulations to Associate member Ann Danford, our Historian, for receiving the 1st Place/Category 3 Americanism Award at the State Convention!

For Big D’s September meeting we had our annual Family Picnic. The weather was great and the food was wonderful!

This time of year gets busier for so many Detachments including Big D. We will be participating in the Dallas Veteran’s Day Parade in downtown Dallas on November 11th. There will be several Marine Corps Birthday Balls in the DFW area to attend. Our Detachment supports the 2/14 Marine Corps Ball.

We have a few Eagle Scout ceremonies to attend and we will be participating in the Grapevine Christmas Parade in early December.

Most of us will be extremely busy with Toys for Tots events – our three day media event will be December 11th, 12th, and 13th.

We will be nominating our 2016 Officers at
our October meeting and having elections at the November meeting. Installation/Christmas luncheon will be December 20th. A big thanks to Department of Texas Chaplain Dennis Bradford for accepting my invitation to come and do our Installation Ceremony!

**Cen-Tex Detachment**

**Austin**

Submitted by Buzz Perez, Jr. Past Commandant
(512) 797-5682 (H) • dabuzzard@austin.rr.com

**IN SEPTEMBER THE CEN-TEX Detachment was involved in the following events:**

- **Presentation of Outstanding Citizenship Certificate…**
- **Turkey Shoot Fundraiser** (where we made over $1,000 for our continuing missions)…

**Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment**

**Bastrop**

Submitted by Ken Steffek, Commandant
(512) 965-6176 (H)
steffeksr.kenneth@yahoo.com

Over the 1st quarter of 2016 the Detachment has had continued membership in Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard where Military Honors are rendered for Fallen Veterans. There were four funerals in July, three in August, and one in September. These “Funeral Honors” are usually in service uniform but as a MCL Detachment we have the option of wearing MCL uniform during these services.
Our Detachment had a vehicle entry in the McDade Watermelon Festival Parade on July 11th and got the first place trophy for “Best Decorated Vehicle” for the third year in a row.

Four members are also members of the committee for Bastrop County’s Red White & Blue Veterans Banquet that is held each November around Veterans Day at Bastrop High School Cafetorium. This is a tribute to all veterans in the county. The Detachment displays veterans’ crosses at this event as well as at our Golf Tournament on October 3rd.

While the Detachment was planning for our 2015 Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament that was held on October 3rd, we had booths once a month at Smithville Trades Days, Bastrop First National Bank, Bastrop Homecoming Rodeo, Bastrop Tractor Supply and Bastrop Farmers Market. We had NJROTCs from Bastrop and Elgin High Schools that participated at the tournament with an Honor/Color Guard as well as the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard with a Rifle Squad for the opening ceremonies.

On August 1st the Detachment had a vehicle in the Bastrop Homecoming Parade.

On August 28th and 29th five members were Honor Flight Guardians at ABIA for an Honor Flight Austin flight for 37 Vietnam veterans going to Washington, D.C. Another flight was on September 25th and 26th for 20 Vietnam and 16 Korean War veterans with one for WWII vets on October 9th and 10th, and a Lakeway Community Flight on November 6th and 7th.

In September our Detachment participated with Cen-Tex Detachment in their “Turkey Shoot” fundraiser. We had a great time at this event.

On September 14th the Detachment was presented with a proclamation by the Bastrop County Judge and Commissioners in recognition of our 2015 Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament and our support of veterans in need as well as the Bastrop and Elgin High School NJROTC Programs and the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard.
Finally, our Golf Tournament on October 3\textsuperscript{rd} was again a success this year. Cen-Tex supported us with a tee/green sponsorship. Thank You Cen-Tex! We plan to do another tournament in October of 2016 as well. These are a lot of work and our Detachment was well represented with workers.

Devil Dog Doings
Submitted by Mike Sherrod
Pound Keeper, Pound 361
msherrod@hot.rr.com

The First Pound Dog of the Year Award for Pound 361, Waco/Temple, was presented to PDD George Simpson on September 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2015, at the quarterly Growl in Waco. Mike Sherrod, Pound Keeper of Pound 361, made the presentation surrounded by other members of the Pound.

Our New Pack Leader...

“Who Let the Dogs Out” Challenge
Submitted by Dennis Bradford
Poundkeeper, Pound #268
Pack Leader, Texas Pack
and
Bernie O’Dell
Dog Robber, Pound #268

The Top of Texas Dogs Pound challenges all other Pounds and Detachments to meet or beat our donation to Department of Texas to replace our Department Colors.

We learned at our Fall Staff Meeting in Ft. Worth that our colors have been repaired and cleaned but on close inspection are stained and
threadbare from years of use. They just need to be replaced.

We pledge 200 Big Bones and ask that you all get together and do the same. Please do what you can to help make this happen. We would like to have all donations into the Department by March 1st so that we might get our colors by June. The estimated cost is between $1,200 and $2,000. Anything raised over the actual cost would be donated to the Cam Posey Scholarship Fund. Individuals may also donate to this cause. All donations are appreciated.

Please Send Donations to Polly Weidenkopf, Department Adjutant/Paymaster, 528 Tiffany Trail, Richardson, TX 75081-5616. Please make checks payable to the Department of Texas MCL.

Thanks for your support.

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Auxiliary Announcements

Viola Trevino
Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Department President &
Southern Division Vice President
(361) 960-0142 (H)
viola.trevino@auxiliary.texasmcl.org

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GREETINGS LADIES!!!

It’s finally Fall and I hope everyone is doing great. I attended the National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, in August. I’d like to thank and congratulate the ladies from our Department for their accomplishments this past year and also for getting involved at National level for the coming year. Elected and appointed officers are as follows:

Activity Awards and Certificates to:

**Department of Texas:**
- First Place - Total Hours
- Second Place - Times Volunteered
- Second Place - Total Value
- Second Place - Child Welfare

Department Volunteers

**Heart of Texas Unit:**
- First Place - Hours
- Third Place - Times Volunteered

All certificates presented by National President Jackie Hunter on August 11th, 2015:
- National Flea of the Year: Brenda Tomonelli
- National President’s Award: Viola Trevino, Southern Division Vice President

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Department of Texas Auxiliary Members attending National Convention:

(Top, L-R) Ann Danford, Johnnie Lopez, Marcia Ynman, Brenda Tomonelli.
(Bottom, L-R) Viola Trevino, Toni Hurtado, Dorcas Simpson

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Ladies for All You Do!
A Note from
Southern Division
Vice President...

I would like to congratulate the ladies from Arkansas and Texas.

The Claude Rogers River Valley Unit from Ft. Smith, AR, received awards as follows:

- Second Place Child Welfare Unit Hours: Claude Rogers/River Valley Unit, AR
- Recruited Five Members Certificate: Linda Blair – Claude Rogers/River Valley Unit

Flea Fiddlings
Submitted by:
Karren Ogg
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Brenda Tomonelli
DOT MODDF Hide
Scratchy Flea
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brenda.tomonelli@auxiliary.texasmcl.org

The Department of Texas
MODDF Hide was well represented in Scottsdale, AZ, at the National Supreme Scratch in August. Texas Fleas attending were: Dorcas Simpson, Viola Trevino, Ann Danford, Toni Hurtado, Brenda Tomonelli, Linda Rigg, and Beverly Hill. Hide of Texas Crawlers Johnnie Lopez and Marcia Ynman were elevated to Flea. Congrats to both for showing the National Hide that Texas Fleas are Supreme!!!

No brag just fact – our Johnnie Lopez set an all-time National record for initiate sales of the Supreme Scratch patches and pins. Way to represent Texas, Johnnie!!! Her efforts contributed to a larger donation fund for the MODDF which was distributed to several very deserving organizations including the MCLA Memorial Fund.

Madame Big Flea, Colleen English, was honored with an Elvis-Beach Party themed Scratch. All things KING related were bestowed upon the attending Fleas. The Hide of Texas was proud to present Colleen with a life-size Elvis (in swim trunks no less) and an Elvis related guitar (a DIY project by Brenda Tomonelli). Madame Big Flea also acknowledged the MODD Texas Pack by bestowing Honorary National Flea Memberships on PCDD Mike English and SDVC Ron Tomonelli. The Fleas proceeded to pester several platoons of Dogs in their quest to become Pedigrees. The Texas MODDF Hide was active in assisting Texas Pack PDD Melody Bronson in obtaining her Pedigree status. Kudos to Dogs Mike, Ron, and Melody!!

Texas Hide Flea Dorcas Simpson was installed as National Police Flea serving under the new Big Flea Patricia Engel. The Texas Hide was also honored when the National Flea of the Year Award was presented to Brenda Tomonelli at the MODD-MODDF luncheon. Brenda becomes the third recipient from the Texas Hide to be so honored, joining Dorcas Simpson and Marie Williams in receiving this prestigious National award. CONGRATS, Brenda!!

(L-R) Marcia Ynman & Johnnie Lopez were elevated to Flea.

Brenda Tomonelli (L) awarded National Flea of the Year Award by 2014 FOY Donna Jean Peterson
The Fall Staff Meeting will have been held by the time this article is published. But as of now, the Texas MODD Fleas are preparing for a fun-filled, Dog-esterin’ Comic-Fest Scratch in Cowtown Ft. Worth. There will be all sorts of cartoon and comic-book related festivities presented for the Texas Fleas to enjoy. Gettin’ ready for Devil Dog harassin’ to begin!

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all Auxiliary members to visit our fun-filled Scratches and join us in our celebrated-celebrating Flea Hide. We would also welcome any and all Marine related ladies to check out the Marine Corps League Auxiliary for extended ways to serve the League and your community; and thus be eligible to join the ranks of the M.O.D.D.F.

Please visit our state website: www.texasmcl.org or the national website: www.nationalmcla.org for information regarding membership and our charitable endeavors.

Semper Mordendi !!

That will allow me to look over the forms and get a head start on the process before arriving for the convention (when things become hectic).

As it gets closer to Convention time there will be an article in the Texas Marine explaining the entire process.

Thanks for your help.

Members who passed away since State Convention 2015
(6 June 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2015)

COASTAL BEND DETACHMENT (Corpus Christi)
Fred Fabela ............................ 1 Aug 15

JOHN YANCEY DETACHMENT (Dallas)
Roy Elsner ............................. 2015
Lindon C. Gregory .......................... 2015
Johnny R. White ............................. 2015

LCPL SHANE GOLDMAN (Mineola)
Marvin Purvis, Jr. ...................... 7 Aug 15

LONGVIEW DETACHMENT (Longview)
Larry Ransom ............................ 12 July 15

TEXOMA DETACHMENT (Denison)
Billy Hunter ............................. 17 Aug 15

WILLIAMSON COUNTY DETACHMENT (Georgetown)
Sabatino “Bud” Nardecchia .......... 27 Aug 15

Convention Delegate Registration
Bernie O’Dell
Convention Credentials Chairman
(940) 549-3944 (H)
(940) 550-5711 (C)
bernieodell@sbcglobal.net

Although it is early to discuss the Delegate Registration forms (used to calculate the number of votes each Detachment has to vote for State Officers) for the State Convention in 2016, I would like to issue a request to all Detachments now.

To expedite the process and dispel any confusion that might exist, please make a note to mail the Delegate Registration forms and a check made payable to the sponsoring Detachment to me at 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450 by

June 1st, 2016.

MEMORIAM
Department of Texas

Members who passed away since State Convention 2015
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June 1st, 2016.
Announcing For Re-Election

During the Fall Staff Meeting the following Department of Texas Officers stated their intention to run for office again at the Department State Convention in June, 2016...

Charles Yman .................. Commandant
Robert Way ..................... Sr. Vice Commandant
Charles Bones ............... Jr. Vice Commandant
James Gulley ................ Judge Advocate
Polly Weidenkopf .......... Adjutant/Paymaster
Dennis Bradford ............ Chaplain
Chris Borel ................. Sergeant-At-Arms

Fall Staff Meeting Information

It was announced at our Fall Staff Meeting that the Commandant and Board of Trustees are working on the protocol for two new Department of Texas awards to be presented annually.

The Harry Bruce Award...
To be presented to a member of the Board of Trustees with requirements similar to those of the Victor T. Fisher Award.

The Joe Vickery Award...
To be presented to a Department of Texas Detachment Chaplain with nominations to be judged by the Department Commandant and Department Chaplain.

National News

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

September 27, 2015...

Just an update to what is happening at National to keep everyone in touch.
As you may have noticed, there is much more being added to the National web page and your comments are being listened to; if they have merit, they will be acted upon as they can be worked in.

“Modern Day Marine” Expo was at Quantico from the 21st to the 24th of September. Our second Board of Trustees meeting was held in conjunction with the Expo, with all Division Vices in attendance, and it covered a lot of ground on implementing changes we all can work with. After listening to the discussion among members it is evident the Division Vices are keeping in touch with one another, via E-mail or phone, and sharing the thoughts of the membership. This will allow us to be on the same page at the same time. The implementation of the new database was discussed, and the entire board was enthusiastic to see it become reality in a few more months with many improvements coming on line; more about this at a later time.

The attendance at “MDM” was as large this year as it has ever been. We had over 400 vendors participating from all segments of the Defense Contractor industry and they were very appreciative of our efforts, along with “Emerald Productions,” who set up the show for us. They have vowed to come back and continue supporting us in the future. Several Detachments had volunteers come and assist with the work, and I wish to thank them all personally for their efforts on their own time and expense. “Semper Fi.”
As you all are well aware, on Thursday, September 24th, 2015, a new Commandant was sworn into office. General Robert Neller is now the 37th Commandant and assumed his duties on that day. We, as Marine Corps Leaguers, welcome him to his new duties and look forward to working with him and his staff. At the same time, we wish to congratulate our 36th Commandant Joseph F. Dunford, as he assumes his new duties as the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His is an important position as he becomes only the second Marine General to hold this position. To both of them we wish them well with “Fair winds, and following seas.”

The National Roster should be online within the next two weeks, and there are many changes. Be sure to forward your comments to me as you have in the past, as it invigorates my energy and thought process. We are working hard for you and we will succeed in our mission.

“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it; it flies with the last breath of each serviceman who died protecting it.”

I taught for almost six years before I accepted a job as a computer system manager in Europe, where I spent three years overseeing a system that taught computer tracking of chemicals and hazardous materials. Moving around, I started up the computer-based tracking systems, taught the locals how to utilize the Oracle-based database, and implemented all of the hardware and software necessary to utilize and maintain those areas.

After leaving Europe I spent nearly three years as a systems administrator working for the U.S. Navy outside of Seattle, WA. After leaving Seattle, I found myself once again working for the U.S. Army as a principal analyst at Ft. Rucker, AL.

There, I once again involved myself with chemicals and analyzing the processes involved with the chemicals utilized on the many aircraft at the Army’s Helicopter Flight School. From Ft. Rucker it was on to Pennsylvania where I worked as a chemical engineer at Letterkenny Army Depot. I worked there for eight years and decided in 2013 that I had had enough moving around and of the working world.

I became a Marine Corps League member when I first came to Pennsylvania. Presently, I am the Sr. Vice Commandant for the Department of Pennsylvania. I am a former Pack Leader and currently the Kennel Smart Dog.

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**SETTING A NEW COURSE...**

Acting Executive Director
Thomas W. Hazlett, Sr.

To the Board of Trustees, and to the membership of the Marine Corps League, I wish to thank you for your trust and votes of confidence in appointing me as your Acting Executive Director.

Let me introduce myself to you. I am a 20-plus-year retired Marine. I spent a few years as a Drill Instructor and the remainder of my Marine Corps career was in tanks. I retired in 1994 and decided to immediately begin a new career: I taught college business, finance and computers, and would occasionally fill in as an algebra and economics instructor.
I am also the Toys for Tots Local Area Coordinator for Adams County. I am very active in the League and very interested in assisting wherever possible.

For the past two years I have been traveling from Gettysburg, PA, my home area, to the MCL National Headquarters where I spend at least one day a week volunteering my time to assist wherever needed. I am the National Chairman of the Marine Corps League Rifle/Pistol Marksmanship Program, the National Chairman for the Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program, and the current Executive Director of the United States Marines Youth Foundation where I work directly for General Gray and Lt. Gen. Olmstead. Some might say I do too much, but I love the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League, and I sure love the chance to be a Devil Dog. It is indeed an honor.

As your Acting Executive Director, I have already undertaken several tasks given to me by the National Commandant that will help our League move forward. We are working to launch a new National website, and I am working with web team members who are building a site that will be much more efficient and user friendly so that we, the membership, will have a site that serves our League well.

We are also working to enhance our database capabilities, to have it available at all levels within our membership and to have it available now so that we can use it for all its intended purposes. We need to move into the 21st Century, reduce unnecessary spending in postal fees, reduce the workload of our National Headquarters staff, and use the technology available to better serve all echelons of our League.

What is behind us cannot be changed. However, we must use the past as a guideline to continue that which was good and productive and to avoid that which was a failure. I am here to assist the membership in any way possible. You do not work for me – my purpose is to work for you. We all must move forward to the betterment of the League and we must do so as a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) effort.

Again I thank you for all that you do on a daily basis to build and better our Marine Corps League; it is time for all of us to move forward.

Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice Commandant
mrd727@gmail.com

10/29/2015...

Forwarded to us from PNC Helen Hicks...

The following is information on what I’m working on as the new Jr. Vice Commandant. Two big things… an incentive program for recruiting and a Division wide program for delinquents.

The incentive program for recruiting:
There will be three cash prizes – as of October 1st all new applications will go into a box for a drawing at the National Convention in Oklahoma in 2016.

1st Prize
$1,000 each to a new member and the Sponsor
2nd Prize
$500 each to new member and the sponsor

3rd Prize
$100 each to the new member and the sponsor (10 third prizes)

If there is no sponsor listed or the new member was a walk in, the Detachment will get the prize.

Delinquents:
There is a Division wide push to bring back delinquents starting at the Detachment level. The Division Vices have been tasked with getting this information out and they are expecting to receive a quarterly report from the Detachment and Department which will be forwarded to me.

I am also looking into some sort of incentive for the Division Vices to push bringing back inactive members. According to the database we have more inactive than active members on the roster. I will keep you all updated as we move on.

(Since 2012 there have been NO REINSTATEMENT FEES for delinquent members’ dues.)

From the Front

U.S., Benin Partnership Training Ends with Strengthened Border Police

By SSgt. Bryan Peterson, Marine Corps Forces Africa
September 28, 2015...

Benin National Surveillance Police students prepare to enter a room during an early morning raid exercise at Benin's Military Officer Academy in Toffo, Benin.

TOFFO BENIN -- U.S. and Benin officials witnessed history in the making in the small West African country at Benin’s National Police Academy September 25th, 2015.

More than 150 National Surveillance Police students graduated from a month-long U.S. Marine Corps led training that included weapons handling, combat marksmanship, patrolling, close-quarters combat, tactical site exploitation, tactical questioning and the operations order process.

Benin’s Minister of Interior Placide Azande, U.S. Embassy Benin’s Chargé d'affaires Todd Whatley, military leaders and a host of other...
distinguished guests were on hand for the ceremony.

It is the first time in the National Surveillance Police’s 10-year history a foreign military has trained and mentored the specialized unit.

The Marines and sailors with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa came to Benin as part of a theater security cooperation mission to build the NSP’s capacity to counter illicit trafficking along the country’s borders.

The training officially ended during an early morning exercise at Benin’s Military Officer Academy in Toffo, northwest of Cotonou, where U.S. Marines evaluated NSP instructors leading their men in patrols, ambushes and raids.

The training came at a time where Benin officials are being “proactive vice reactive,” with current issues along the country’s borders, said Azande.

“There are a lot of issues in West Africa, to include Benin, such as terrorism and drug trafficking,” said Azande. “Also, with our country’s military commitment to fight Boko Haram with our neighboring countries, we know we will be a target, especially since we haven’t had a terrorist attack from them. We have to be prepared on the borders to reduce that risk.

“We have to have the best training for our border police and having the Marines here was a very great asset. Benin is a very grateful nation for their time here.”

For the past month, while conducting business in and around Cotonou, Whatley said he was constantly approached by Beninese people who thanked the U.S. for their pledge to improve border security.

He said word traveled fast about the Marines’ presence and that they were “excited to see the U.S. Marines” training the policemen every day.

“We all need to work together to develop a multi-agency, multi-national, coordinated approach to provide the necessary training and mentoring to the West African law enforcement community to reinforce their interdiction capacity at all borders,” said Whatley. “This training helped strengthen the U.S.-Benin relationship on border security.”

1st Lt. Clifford A. Miles, the SPMAGTF-CR-AF team leader, said the bond between the Marines and NSP “grew bigger and bigger every day.” He attributed that to the energy from both sides.

“Since day one, they were ready,” said Miles. “These guys are ready to get out to their border police stations and do what they signed up to do. They’re motivated to do so because they’ve seen what goes on at their borders and to their people. We’re happy to be here to teach them whatever they need to get the job done.”

37th U.S.M.C. Commandant Visits America’s Largest MEF

October 5, 2015...

Gen. Robert Neller speaks to Marines of the I Marine Expeditionary Force about the future of their Corps
regulations, individual leadership and future operations.

“As Marines we are going to set the best example that we can,” Neller said. “We are going to make sure we take care of the gear we have and take care of the Marines we have.”

Neller, who succeeded Gen. Joseph Dunford, stressed the importance of constantly improving as leaders and reminded the Marines to take time out of their day to get to know their junior Marines and address any concerns and issues they might have.

“Whenever you have a chance sit down with your Marines, get to know them, be a leader,” Neller said. “I believe in a firm, but fair leadership style and that Marines should always be treated with dignity and respect.”

He also spoke about what leadership should expect from their Marines.

“Marines should always give 100% to the mission,” said Neller. “We should always seek to overcome adversity looking for solutions to our problems and never run away.”

The Marines expressed their gratitude that the Commandant would take time to come address any concerns they had.

“It meant a lot for Gen. Neller to come out and visit our unit. This was my first opportunity to listen to what the Commandant had planned for the Marine Corps,” said LCpl. Karen Lopezvillareal, a personnel administration specialist with I MEF Headquarters Group. “I took away the expectations the Commandant had for me as a junior Marine and the expectations I should have of my leadership.”

A veteran of conflicts in Panama, Somalia and Iraq, Neller reminded the Marines of the importance of being combat ready, staying physically and mentally fit, and prepared for future conflicts and operations.

“As the nation’s crisis response force and force-in-readiness, Marines remain forward deployed, ready to fight and win,” Neller said. “However, we cannot rest on our past successes and our current efforts because our nation’s enemies are continuously adapting.”

The Commandant concluded his speech by thanking the Marines for their hard work and service.

“Our strength is he talent, skill and discipline of our Marines and sailors,” Neller said. “Today we are ready and capable because of patriotic Americans who are willing to step forward and take on the challenge of being a Marine.”

Thanks to the German Army, the U.S. Marine Corps has an unofficial mascot. During World War I many German reports had called the attacking Marines “teufel-hunden,” meaning Devil-Dogs. Teufel-hunden were the vicious, wild, and ferocious mountain dogs of Bavarian folklore.

Soon afterward a U.S. Marine recruiting poster depicted a snarling English Bulldog wearing a Marine Corps helmet. Because of the tenacity and demeanor of the breed, the image took root with both the Marines and the public. The Marines soon unofficially adopted the English Bulldog as their mascot.

At the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, the Marines obtained a registered English Bulldog, King Bulwark. In a formal ceremony on 14 October 1922, BGen. Smedley D. Butler signed documents enlisting the bulldog, renamed Jiggs, for the “term of life.” Pvt. Jiggs then began his official duties in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A hard-charging Marine, Pvt. Jiggs did not remain a private for long. Within three months he was wearing corporal chevrons on his custom-made uniform. On New Year’s Day 1924, Jiggs was promoted to Sergeant. And in a meteoric rise, he got promoted again –
this time to Sergeant Major -- seven months later.

Sgt. Maj. Jiggs’ death on 9 January 1927 was mourned throughout the Corps. His satin-lined coffin lay in state in a hangar at Quantico, surrounded by flowers from hundreds of Corps admirers. He was interred with full military honors.

But a replacement was on the way. Former heavyweight boxing champion, James J. “Gene” Tunney (“The Fighting Marine”), who had fought with the Marines in France, donated his English Bulldog. Renamed as Jiggs II, he stepped into the role of his predecessor.

Big problem! No discipline! Jiggs chased people, he bit people. He showed a total lack of respect for authority. The new Jiggs would have likely made an outstanding combat Marine, but barracks life did not suit him. After one of his many rampages, he died of heat exhaustion in 1928. Nonetheless, other bulldogs followed. During the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s they were all named Smedley, a tribute to Gen. Butler.

In the late 1950s the Marine Barracks in Washington, the oldest post in the Corps, became the new home for the Corps’ mascot. Renamed Chesty to honor the legendary Lt. Gen. Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, Jr., the mascot made his first formal public appearance at the Evening Parade on 5 July 1957. In his canine Dress Blues, Chesty became an immediate media darling, a smash hit!

After the demise of the original Chesty, the replacement was named Chesty II. He became an instant renegade. You name it, he did it. He even escaped and went AWOL once. Two days later he was returned in a police paddy wagon. About the only thing he ever managed to do correctly was to sire a replacement.

In contrast to his father, Chesty III proved to be a model Marine. He even became a favorite of neighborhood children, for which he was awarded a Good Conduct Medal. Other bulldogs would follow Chesty III (bulldogs don’t live long). When Chesty VI died after an Evening Parade, a Marine detachment in Tennessee called Washington. Their local bulldog mascot, LCpl. Bodacious Little, was standing by for PCS orders to Washington, they reported.

Upon arrival at the Marine Barracks in Washington, LCpl. Little got ceremoniously renamed Chesty VII. He and the English Bulldogs who followed him epitomize the fighting spirit of the U.S. Marines. Tough, muscular, aggressive, fearless, and often arrogant, they are the ultimate canine warriors.

English Bulldogs. Teufel-hunden. Devil Dogs. They symbolize the ethos of the Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines.

Marine Corps Mascot: (excerpt from Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

Marines’ Chesty XIV Promoted to Corporal, Despite Taste for Snacks

By Julian E. Barnes, The Wall Street Journal
Washington Wire
August 29, 2014...

Despite lingering questions over his eating habits, Chesty XIV, the Marine Corps’ bulldog mascot, was promoted to corporal.
At a ceremony Friday morning at the Marine Barracks Washington, Gen. James Amos, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, affixed the insignia of a corporal to Chesty.

The Marine Corps Friday Night parade season ends tonight, the last ceremonial show that will be overseen by Gen. Amos, who is scheduled to relinquish command in October. And in remarks bidding adieu to the Marines at the Washington Barracks, Gen. Amos said he wanted to promote Chesty XIV before he departed.

“We wanted to make sure Chesty was given the appropriate acknowledgement and rank so that when we left he was on his best game,” Gen. Amos told Marines gathered to watch the mascot’s promotion from lance corporal.

Gen Amos and his wife Bonnie have taken a particular interest in the current Chesty. In the wake of an incident between former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta’s golden retriever and the previous Marines’ mascot, Mrs. Amos has overseen the training of the current Chesty.

“She will check up on him just to make sure he is behaving himself,” said Sgt. Katie Maynard, Cpl. Chesty’s handler. “She takes an active role.”

The current Chesty was introduced to the Marine Barracks in February 2013, and this year had solo responsibility for the evening parades. Partisans of the current mascot suggest Cpl. Chesty is better around other animals and less focused on sleeping than his predecessor.

Still, hanging over the ceremony was discussion of Chesty’s weight. Rumors have swirled in Washington that Chesty XIV was getting fat. And Gen. Amos made repeated references to the mascot’s fitness. He warned the dog to watch his growing girth, noting the dog had “grown into the job in more ways than one.”

“The last thing Chesty needs is more food,” Gen. Amos said.

Cpl. Chesty weighs 63.5 pounds, and the son of large bulldogs could comfortably grow bigger, said Sgt. Maynard.

Weight is a problem for bulldogs in general - and for the Marine mascots in particular. Overeating and poor diet have been blamed for the early retirements of a string of previous mascots. As a result, the current Marine Corp leadership is focused on keeping their Chestys on a strict diet.

Sgt. Maynard said Marines have been careful about feeding him, but acknowledge he has an eye for snacks.

“He knows what he can and cannot have,” she said. “But he will check to see if you are watching.”

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**U.S. Marine Corps News**

Navy to Name Ship after Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams

By Elaina Sauber, Putnam County Reporter
Charleston Gazette-Mail
October 20, 2015...

The U.S. Navy will name a ship after Hershel “Woody” Williams, West Virginia World War II veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

“Naming a ship after Woody is a lifelong tribute to Woody's brave actions and his dedication to public service,” Manchin said in a news release. “Woody embodies the service and sacrifice our great state has given to our nation and this honors not only his legacy but the legacy of West Virginia veterans and their families.”

The ship in question will be an expeditionary sea base, Williams said in a phone interview Tuesday.

The Ona
resident said he was “extremely excited and humbled” when he received a call Tuesday morning from U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who told him the news. “It’s almost beyond my imagination... that the secretary of the Navy - and America as a whole – would think me worthy to receive such an honor,” Williams said. Born in 1923 near Fairmont, Williams enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 and was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, according to information from the West Virginia Encyclopedia. Williams’ heroic actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945 earned him the Medal of Honor. Today, he’s the last surviving Iwo Jima veteran with that distinction. A shrapnel injury he sustained during that period also earned him a Purple Heart, awarded to him by President Harry Truman. Following his discharge in November 1945, Williams served in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1969 and also was a counselor to other West Virginia veterans for the Veterans Administration for 33 years. “When we came back from World War II, West Virginia had one VA medical center at that time, in Huntington,” Williams said. Due to the lack of resources and high number of returning veterans, the VA established 16 field officers around the state to work with other veterans in need. Williams was one of them. “It was one of the best jobs anybody could ever have,” he said. “Every day, something happened that made you feel good about what you were able to accomplish.” Seventy years after Iwo Jima, Williams traveled back to the Japanese island in March with a tour group, taking two grandsons and a great-grandson along. “It was very emotional, but also very rewarding, to go back and see where I was 70 years ago,” he said. “The whole island, when we were there, was barren and blown to pieces. Now, it’s all green.” Before a dedication ceremony can be scheduled at the West Virginia state Capitol, Mabus is required to give Congress a 30-day notice of the honor, Williams said.

**Upcoming Events**

**Marine West Expo**

Marine Corps Base • Camp Pendleton, CA

February 3rd – 4th, 2016

**National Mid-Winter Conference**

Fairview Park Marriott

311 Fairview Park Dr. • Falls Church, VA 22042

(703) 849-9400 • March 3rd – 5th, 2016

**Marine South Expo**

Marine Corps Base • Camp Lejeune, NC

April 6th – 7th, 2016

**Southern Division Conference**

Wyndham Garden Hotel

2101 S. Meridian Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73108

(405) 685-4000 • April 8th – 10th, 2016
May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes ’n gravy...
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs.

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Department of Texas State Convention
MCM Hotel Elegante
2330 W. Northwest Hwy • Dallas, TX 75220
(844) 316-3988 • June 23rd – 26th, 2016

MCL National Convention
Hyatt Regency Tulsa (full)
Overflow Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott
415 S. Boston Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74103
(918) 508-7400 • August 7th – 12th, 2016

DEADLINE
for Texas Marine
WINTER Edition
will be
January 15th

Please submit articles/photos to Juanita O’Dell
@ 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450
OR
juanita.odell@texasmcl.org
When the Continental Congress raised up two battalions of Marines in 1775, it launched the greatest fighting force the world has ever known—a force revered globally for its uncommon valor, unparalleled adaptability, and ferocious tenacity. Over the past 240 years, the battlefields and equipment have changed, but the spirit of the United States Marine Corps has prevailed in every clime and place.

One hundred years ago, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island opened its doors as the first base dedicated solely to making Marines. Since then, hundreds of thousands of men and women have been forged into elite warriors at Parris Island, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, and The Basic School in Quantico. Each recruit had a different reason for stepping onto the yellow footprints, but all are unified by the intangible traits that characterize United States Marines and the remarkable legacy that has carried on across generations.

Whether you served on the hallowed grounds of Belleau Wood, fought on the iconic island battlefields of World War II, navigated the harsh terrain and climate of the Chosin Reservoir or Vietnam, conducted assaults during Desert Storm, marched on Baghdad, fought in close combat in Fallujah, or conducted combat operations in Afghanistan, everyone who wears the Eagle, Globe and Anchor is a member of that storied legacy.

As we celebrate the 240th birthday of our Corps, we pay tribute to all who have served and we remember our fallen heroes. We take great pride in our legacy and in the fine men and women who carry our colors into the future. And we extend heartfelt thanks to our families for their steadfast support.

Our 26th Commandant, General Louis Wilson, once said, “In the last analysis, what the Marine Corps becomes is what we make of it during our respective watches. And that watch of each Marine is not confined to the time he spends on active duty. It lasts as long as he is ‘proud to bear the title of United States Marine.’” Thank you all for guarding the legacy of our Corps during your watch.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

Robert B. Neller, General Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps

As we celebrate the 240th Anniversary of our beloved Marine Corps it is time to remember and reflect. Through the years, since “1775,” it has been our custom to remember, and honor, our Corps and the many men and women who have earned the title, “United States Marine,” and this year we are proud to continue this time-honored tradition.

We, as Marines, have many reasons to thank those who came before us and gave us many proud and glorious reasons to maintain our vigilance and dedication to their sacrifices on behalf of our nation. Not only do we honor our veterans of past conflicts, but we also must honor the veterans of our present conflicts who are engaging the enemy as they were trained to do: as “United States Marines.” Our Brothers and Sisters carrying on our heritage are as dedicated, loyal, and proud as we were on active duty.

As we stand ready to attend the many Birthday celebrations throughout our great nation, let us never forget who we are or what it was that made us proud to earn the title we cherish above all others, “United States Marines.” We are the keepers of our Marine Heritage and will retain our love of God, Country and Corps until we no longer breathe the air of this earth.

“Semper Fi”, my Brothers and Sisters

Richard D. Gore, Sr.
National Commandant, Marine Corps League