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HAPPY 241st 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. This is the time for all Marines to face either MCRD San Diego or MCRD Parris Island, howl at the moon, and remember a time when we were bigger than life. God blessed us with the title of “Marine” and we earned it.

As we honor our beloved Corps, I will think of every one of you and hope that you will be able to celebrate in your own localities.
November 10th is also a time when we are reminded of the sacrifices our Veterans made to protect our country from foreign aggression. We encourage all of you to participate in your local parades and to display our Marine Corps Colors. This holiday is also a wonderful opportunity to recruit new members for the Marine Corps League.

The Department of Texas membership and retention have been headed in a positive direction and we welcome two new Detachments now being formed in Beeville and Big Spring, Texas. Many Detachments have been awarded certificates for making 100% membership goals and keeping their non-pays at less than 15%. I am pleased with all of your efforts that have made the Department of Texas noticeable on a National level.

I also congratulate our terrific newsletter editors, Bernie and Juanita O’Dell, who once again made the Department of Texas proud due to their receiving the 2016 National First Place Newsletter Award. We are privileged to have these talented members on our team.

We are also fortunate to have a good group of Department Officers and Committee Chairmen who have contributed to our professional newsletter, web site and Facebook. These methods of communication ensure that our members receive current information, thereby allowing the business of the Detachments to run smoothly.

Your Department Officers are prepared to assist you whenever possible. But in order to serve you better, we need your prompt submission of 1) Transmittals, 2) Request for Transfers, 3) Officer Installations, 4) Life Member Audits, 5) Death Notices, and 6) the all-important 990NP.

Through your support and cooperation, the Department of Texas is in sound condition, within budget and now with a cash surplus. As per our commitment, your Department Officers strive “to meet and exceed your expectations.”

Robert D. Way
Department of Texas
Sr. Vice Commandant
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One of my additional duties as Sr. Vice is Youth Activities the Department of Texas is involved in.

Basically, the only way I know what a Detachment is doing in regards to youth activities is through the Detachment Activity Report. I do not see very many youth activities indicated on the Detachment Activity Reports I receive.

What are youth activities and why are they important? Youth activities can be many things. Does your Detachment sponsor or help a Boy/Girl Scout troop? Does it make Eagle Scout presentations? Are you involved with the Young Marines, JROTC units or other youth groups? Do you make any presentations at schools? What about hosting a Youth Physical Fitness Meet, or helping a school get the Youth Physical Fitness Program going in their school?

These are just a few things a Detachment can do in regards to youth activities. It does not take a genius to figure out why it is important. They are our future and our replacements. They need the positive guidance and leadership that we can provide them.

I know a lot of your Detachments are involved in youth activities; however, if you don’t put them on your activities report, I have no way of knowing what you are doing. Babysitting your grandchildren does not count as a reportable youth activity.
James Gulley  
Department of Texas  
Judge Advocate  
(832) 741-6961 (H)  
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**Judge Advocate Alerts**

**During This Quarter**

I have been busy preparing the recent revisions to the Department Bylaws and Enclosures which have been previously approved by the Board of Trustees and the Department membership. My thanks to Bernie O’Dell for his assistance in completing the final preparation of the new Bylaws and Enclosures. These documents are now available on the Department web site.

I have also received and reviewed several questions from Detachment Commandants and Sr. Vice Commandants which were resolved.

Polly Weidenkopf  
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**Adjutant/Paymaster Postings**

**We Are Coming To The Time Of Year When**

ALL Detachments are required to submit their 990. If, in 2015, your Detachment had income of less than $50,000, you will complete the online postcard. You do this by going to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and do a search for “990” and follow the instructions for submission. Under the new system, you will NOT automatically receive a confirmation email. You have to wait a couple of hours and then go into the account you created and you will receive the confirmation information, which you must send to me via email. The deadline for submission is **2400, 15 November 2016**.

The second requirement is the Permanent Life Audit. To do this, you review the **30 June 2016** Detachment Roster to determine that all the members listed on the roster are correct. You will then put the following statement on the last page of your roster, **“We have reviewed this roster and confirm that it is true and correct.”** The statement should be signed by the Detachment Commandant and the Detachment Adjutant. The document should be mailed to me. I must have the documents **no later than 9 December 2016**. Anything received later than that date will not be sent to National because I am leaving the country for Christmas.

If anyone showing on the list is deceased, you will add “**Deceased**” next to their name. You should also ensure that a Death Notice has been sent to the Department Chaplain. The only effect this will have is that the deceased individual will not be included in the financial calculation.

Melody Bronson  
Department of Texas Chaplain  
(469) 853-7681 (H)  
meadolarc@aol.com

**Chaplain’s Comments**

**Hello Everyone!**

Welcome to Fall! I know we are all ready for cooler weather!!

I want to thank those Detachments out there who have been sending me their Death Notices. This is certainly not a pleasant task to have to do, but it does have to get done. If your Detachment does not have the forms you can access them through the Department web site. These can be mailed to me at: 704 Rancho Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149 or emailed to me at: meadolarc@aol.com. You can also send me emails via the Department web site. Eventually these forms will only be accepted by National from the...
Department Chaplains via online/email, but until that process is ready, please continue to send the Death Notices to me either by mail or email.

Detachments, also please notify me when you have a member who has become hospitalized or very ill, and keep me informed of their progress – getting better or not improving. I do pray for my fellow Marines and I want to ensure I add our “sick and distressed” Marines to my daily prayers. I also like to send cards to these Marines as well. So, please notify me and keep me informed.

Until next time… God Bless and Semper Fi.

Chris Borel
Department of Texas Sergeant-At-Arms
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PROPER DISPLAY OF THE U.S. FLAG

The standard display of the U.S. Flag is as follows…

Most command positions of honor is first Height (the tallest staff or pole), the second is the Front (leading), third is the Left Side (from the observer’s position), Right Side (from the presenter’s position (building, house, monument)).

The U.S. Code for the proper displaying of the U.S. Flag on a line of three flag poles perpendicular from a building is not exactly addressed in writing. A person can use proper reasoning to understand the intent of the Code to come to a reasonable understanding on how to display the U.S. Flag in this case. If a person thinks of these three flag poles as three people holding flag staffs marching from the displaying building you would find the black and white answer in the code, that the last pole closest to the road and farthest from the building is the senior or honor pole, as in U. S. Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, sub paragraph 7, (c) or (f).

U.S. Code › Title 4 › Chapter 1 › § 7 4 U.S. Code § 7 - Position and manner of display

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag’s own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(c) No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to, or in place of, the flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof. Provided, that nothing in this section shall make unlawful the continuance of the practice heretofore followed of displaying the flag of the United Nations in a position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations.

(f) When flags of states, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag’s right.

I’m sending this note out so that you may help people in your communities, in the effort to educate those who care to display the National Colors but haven’t had the job or requirement to know the proper rules or regulations. I have had the honor of being in jobs that required me to know the regulations as a Marine Security Guard on Embassy Duty and a Company First Sergeant of Marines on Inspector and Instructor Duty. I see local businesses displaying them incorrectly a lot. When I take the time to stop and inform them they correct it and pass it on to others.
TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN

Facebook, web site, newsletter, and emails are the methods that we are using to communicate today in the Department of Texas. It’s all intended to keep the membership informed as to what the Marine Corps League is doing.

Marketing resources say that a newsletter should be reaching about 55%. In the web area, 67% of web site users will read online, and only 14.6% of Facebook readers actually look at familiar information.

The key here is getting the information through one of these medias. Often when you don’t have access to the web or the email service, many potential readers never see the information. The information that is sent out or posted is intended for all members. In each unit or organization, it’s the responsibility of those who receive it to make sure everyone has gotten the information.

It should also be part of the New Correspondence Report at each meeting to mention the new information in all the media resources. Encourage your members to look at the web site, the Texas Marine and also Facebook. There is an abundance of information that in some cases is very important for the membership.

Our Newsletter:  http://texasmcl.org/texas-marine

Our Web Site:  http://www.texasmcl.org/

Our Facebook page:  https://www.facebook.com/departmentoftexasmcl/

Twitter:  https://twitter.com/Texas_Marines

I need to ask each Detachment member in the Southern Division if you know how the business of your Detachment is carried out by the Officers who you have elected?

Do you attend the membership meetings, is there a Paymaster’s report given, are questions asked about the finances of the Detachment, are the minutes from the prior meeting presented by the Adjutant, are major expenditures listed in the minutes, and is there an annual audit of the Detachment’s records?

If you have answered “No” to any of these questions then you need to get to a Detachment meeting, start to ask some of these questions of your elected Officers, and press for answers if you do not get them. It is too easy for the membership of a Detachment to just leave everything up to their Officers and then wonder what went wrong when something happens.

This has just happened within the Southern Division to a Detachment that has had their Past Commandant arrested for embezzlement of Detachment funds after several years with no oversight. This was not a large Detachment with a large bank account; they had no club, no bingo, just the normal business that 90% of our Detachments conduct on a daily basis. The membership just did not pay attention to what was going on and now they are trying to pick up the pieces. The current Detachment Commandant is going to issue an “After Action Report” with the details of what happened...
once the court has released them from the current gag order pending the outcome of the criminal case. When this is available I will make sure that it is sent out for every Detachment to read.

This does bring up another subject and that is Detachment Bylaws, and are they current? While a Detachment does not need a lot in their Bylaws there should be something that defines items specific to your Detachment. If you do not have any Bylaws please consider putting some together, and if you do have Bylaws that have not been reviewed in several years get them out and review them for any changes that may be needed.

Just remember that when you make changes to your Detachment Bylaws you need to send two copies to the Department Judge Advocate so that he can review, certify them, return a set with his approval, and maintain a set with his records. **Detachments NEVER need to send their Detachment Bylaws to National for approval; this is only done by Departments.**

Remember Marines, it is far easier to keep our houses in order before something happens.

Submitted by Bernie O’Dell, Chairman
Southern Division Marine of the Year Society
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**NOMINATIONS NEEDED!**

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

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

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

Procedure for Handling Nominations
Southern Division Marine of the Year

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

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

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

Submitted by Dennis Thomas
District Vice Commandant
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from Amarillo started having conversations with an organization back in May of 2016 when they contacted the Detachment looking for a local Veterans organization to donate their funds to. They had heard about the Panhandle Veterans Financial Assistance Program that the Detachment sponsors and asked if they would be willing to accept their donations to assist Veterans in the local area. In past years they had donated their funds to the Wounded Warriors but never really got to see the results of their work.

The Roan Creek Detachment invited them to come to their monthly meeting and introduced them to the Marine Corps League. Their staff attended a couple of the meetings and a couple of the mid month fellowship dinners. The Detachment helped them with some of their tournament planning and paperwork while the Detachment was also planning their own annual golf tournament.

This organization is based out of Bell Helicopter. They are all Bell Helicopter employees who have come together and started their own 501(c)3 nonprofit called “Scrambling for Our Heroes.” Their tournament was about three weeks after the Roan Creek Golf Tournament and some of the Detachment members even participated in the Scrambling for Our Heroes Golf Tournament. When it all shook out, on October 4th, 2016, they presented the Roan Creek Detachment with a check for $12,114.27 to go towards the Panhandle Veterans Financial Assistance Program.

Hawthorne Detachment of Stinnett has started their annual Toys for Tots by working with the Sheriff’s Department, Police and Fire Departments of Borger, Fritch and Stinnett in Hutchinson County on the Toys for Tots campaign. They will all be working together for the first time to assist the Hutchinson County Toys for Tots in the
collection of toys and money donations.

Hawthorne Detachment also laid to rest one of their Charter members, L.T. Dozier, a Rocket Truck Driver on Iwo Jima. The funeral was attended by members of the Hawthorne Detachment and escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders. A Marine Corps Funeral Detail from the Lubbock Reserves Unit drove up to fold the Colors and play Taps.

North Texas Detachment has also started working on their Toys for Tots campaign. The towns of Graham and Olney join in to help reach their goal in Young County every year. After collecting the toys, volunteers in Graham gather on a Friday to pack up the bags and then on Saturday distribute them to those who come to the distribution location (a local church).

Terrell Detachment will be swearing in Marvin, as well as six other new members, at their Birthday meeting/party on November 10th.

Until the next newsletter, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.
Members of the Detachment also helped to conduct a four day marksmanship training course for the El Paso ISD Army JROTC cadets. Six of their rifle teams participated in the training.

The Detachment also hosted the 9th Annual “No Skills Field Meet.” Seventeen JROTC units participated in this event. Approximately 500 cadets were involved in the field meet.

Members of the Unit also helped the Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Over 100 homeless veterans were helped.

The Honor Unit also conducted several firing details for deceased veterans.

Another high point in this quarter was the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Detachment was asked to organize and coordinate the parade by an El Paso city representative. This was one of many events that took place during August to commemorate the anniversary.
The Unit is now getting ready for the Marine Corps Birthday celebration as well as Thanksgiving, the Toys for Tots drive and the Christmas Holidays.

Submitted by Robert K. Otto
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Surprise Presentation

The Wounded Warrior Battalion East Commanding Officer presented the Taco Thursday crew with a surprise Certificate of Appreciation on August 4th at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Annex.

Also, August 5th is Lt. Col. Riley’s last official day as the OIC of the Annex as he is going on terminal leave. He will retire in September.

Submitted by Melody Bronson
Commandant
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Hello from Big D!!

Wow! Where has this year gone! I can’t believe the holidays are upon us already! It’s so nice to be having some cooler weather.

The National Convention has come and gone and unfortunately I had to miss it this year, but I heard it was great! Two of our Detachment members who are also members of the MODD were initiated to PDD. Congrats and Woof! Woof! to Linda and John Shook.

We had our annual Detachment picnic in September. Nice weather and great food as always.

We’ve had the privilege of attending some Eagle Scout Courts of Honor and presenting the MCL Eagle Scout Award. Steve Wilson recently presented six certificates at one ceremony and Melody Bronson presented three certificates. We really enjoy doing this and are honored when the local Scout leaders reach out to us to present these awards.

After three years of serving as Big D’s Commandant, I will be giving up the reins at the end of the year. We will have our nominations at the October meeting, elections at the November meeting, and our Officer Installation will be at our December meeting. We are honored to have the Department of
Texas Commandant Charles Ynman as our Installation Officer this year!

We will once again be participating in the Dallas Veterans Day Parade and the DFW National Cemetery Program on November 11th. And a big Happy Birthday Marines on November 10th!! Big D will be super busy December 9th, 10th, and 11th during our Toys for Tots media weekend and toy collection.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Commandant for Big D these past three years. I want to thank all of the members for your support, patience and guidance. I have learned a lot over the past three years and I still have a lot more to learn about the Marine Corps League. We have a great Detachment and I look forward to working with our new officers who will be elected and to see our Detachment grow with new ideas and new members.

Until next time… Semper Fi and Happy Birthday Marines!!

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**Galveston County Detachment Galveston**

Submitted by Richard Torres, Commandant (512) 964-5054 (H) • torgr@aol.com

The Detachment provided a meal for Charlie Company, 4th Amtrak Battalion, 4th Marine Division on October 1st. The meal was a special occasion. Charlie Company 1st Platoon was deployed for active service on October 1st.

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**Heart of Texas Detachment Waco**

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

I am just writing a few lines to let you know how things are going here in the Heart of Texas Detachment. Being the Detachment Commandant has me on my feet. I am beginning to understand what the Commandant has to do and what is going on in the Detachment.

We are trying a new way of getting members into the League. The Detachment is throwing a Halloween party at the Exchange here in Waco. We have a member who works there so he got us the grounds that have the pits and tables. This is to invite Marines and their families out to party and to see if we can get some to join the League. And we are trying other ways of getting new members.
At ease. This is the 3rd quarter report for the Lost Pines Leathernecks, Detachment #1384.

As we began this summer, during the month of July the Detachment participated in the McDade Watermelon Festival Parade. We were the parade Color Guard and we also won an award for the Best Decorated Vehicle.

Along with our monthly Detachment meeting we had members attend other meetings that the Detachment is affiliated with too. We also continue to promote our Annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament.

Going into August we had activities where our Detachment involvement increased. We celebrated a milestone for our Detachment - we reached our five year anniversary as a Marine Corps League Detachment. In Marine Corps fashion we celebrated with the singing of The Marines’ Hymn and a cake cutting with our youngest and oldest Marines.

Our Detachment once again was requested to serve as the Color Guard in a local parade; this parade in particular is special to all of us as it is our “hometown” parade, the Bastrop Homecoming Parade. We continued the promotion of our golf tournament and attended several meetings as well (TAVV, BCVHG, Red, White & Blue Veterans of Bastrop County).

We were pleased to be able to start participating in the “Hero Chat” with Bastrop Silver Pines Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. This is an opportunity to speak with Veterans and let them share their stories with us. If you are in the Bastrop area the next time the “Hero Chat” takes place please feel free to attend.

Our Detachment members who participate with the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard (BCVHG) performed Military Honors for two Veteran funerals this month. In commemoration of the Bastrop American Legion Post 533’s 70th Anniversary we were honored to perform a Flag Ceremony for them.

In new news, we as a Detachment became a member of the Smithville Chamber of Commerce.
In closing out August we were able to do what we really enjoy doing and that is giving back to our Veterans. We were able to build a wheelchair ramp for a disabled Vietnam vet to allow him access in and out of his home.

Wheelchair ramp built by the Detachment for a disabled Vietnam Vet

As September began the Detachment was in Full Battle Mode getting ready for our Annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament ([www.lpl1384.org/Golf.html](http://www.lpl1384.org/Golf.html)), which by the time you read this will already have been completed. All proceeds for this tourney are for helping out Veterans. If you have never played in it, I strongly encourage you to do so next year.

Along with the multitude of meetings for the tourney we still found time to be involved in plenty of other activities during the month. The BCVHG performed Military Honors at two funerals this month. Several of our members served as Guardians for Honor Flight Austin on three separate occasions this month, too. Our Detachment once again participated in the wreath laying during the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

As usual during the time this update was being written our Detachment is incredibly busy and constantly involved in many, many more activities and they will be referenced on a later date.

*Semper Fi and Good Night Chesty Wherever You Are!*
WOOF!! WOOF!!

First off, we want to give a big wet-tongue-lick to PCDD Clifton Williams for returning home to Texas. We are glad to have him back in our Pack and Division.

Next, a big Bark goes out to all the Dogs in the Southern Division. We took 3rd place in membership this year at the Supreme Growl. That’s 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the past three years. Let’s keep rooting around for new, worthy Pups and round up those ole Dogs and get them back in our Pounds.

Congratulations go to all those Devil Dogs who endured this year’s PDD initiations and advanced to Pedigree. Remember, if you are eligible to advance for next year, get your paperwork in early. This year, as in the past, there were some whose paperwork got eaten up (probably by some Fleas) and did not get to advance. These problems were addressed by the Kennel Staff and some new procedures will be enacted to, hopefully, catch these situations in time to be fixed. (Woops! Sorry for saying “fixed” to Dogs.)

A reminder to all Dogs: the MODD has several awards that can be presented to your well-deserving Pound and Pack Dogs. One is the Dog of the Year where letters of nomination are sent in by the Pound. Another to keep in mind is the Pack and the Pound Dog Robber of the Year.

Read up on these in the “Awards” section of your Bylaws Manual. Take the time and research the awards and if you have a worthy Dog in your Pack or Pound that meets the criteria, submit their name to Kennel, Pack, or Pound as detailed.

I attended the Pound Growl for Kudlicki #199 in Tyler on October 1st. We had a barking good attendance and 2016-2017 Officers were installed by Past Pack Leader Bob Ogg. We were all proudly tail-waggin’ over our four new Pedigrees. A big ARF to PDD Richard Smith, PDD John Ropella, PDD Dan Singletary, and PDD Chris Borel for obtaining Pedigree in Tulsa. A large “good boy” to PDD Randy Rigg for hosting a very successful Pound Growl and thanks to him and his Flea, Linda, for some great scraps!

For now keep your paws dry, tails wagging, and your nose cool.
achieve these goals, but I am going to need everyone to get involved and come up with ideas. Together we can build a bigger and better Department.

I hope everyone is participating in Veterans Day activities. I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s. When everyone is making their resolutions try to include the Auxiliary.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Department of Texas Hide Fleas hopped over the Red River to Tulsa for the National Supreme Scratch in August. Texas Fleas attending were: Dorcas Simpson, Viola Trevino, Ann Danford, Toni Hurtado, Brenda Tomonelli, Linda Rigg, Beverly Hill, Marcia Ynman, and Johnnie Lopez. Hide of Texas Crawlers, Dolly Fogle and Arkansas’ Linda Blair were elevated to Flea. Congrats to both for showing the National Hide that Texas Fleas are Supreme!!! And with her National record holder daughter’s (Johnnie Lopez) expertise, Dolly won 1st place for sales of the Supreme Scratch patches and pins. Her efforts contributed to a large donation fund for the MODDF which was distributed to several very deserving organizations including the MCLA Memorial Fund. This was the largest attendance by Texas Fleas in a long time! Way to hop for Texas, gals!!!

Madame Big Flea, Pat Engel, was honored with a Cowgirl-Rodeo themed Scratch. Texas Fleas

Dorcas & Brenda assisted in decorating the Flea Ranch Room with a cowboy roping fence and hay bales provided by the Texas Hide. They also presented Madame Big Flea, Pat, with her ‘Flea Ranch’ sign created by Brenda. The Fleas proceeded to bite and “brand” several platoons of Dogs in their quest to become Pedigrees. The Texas MODDF Hide was active in assisting and pestering at least six Texas Pack MODD Dogs in obtaining their Pedigree status.

Texas Hide Flea Dorcas Simpson was installed as National Studious Flea serving under the new Big Flea, Rogene Hackbarth. As 2015 National Flea of the Year, Brenda Tomonelli presented the 2016 Flea of the Year award to Elaine Schieffer at the Dog-Flea luncheon on Thursday.

The Fall Staff Conference will have been held by the time this article is published. But as of now, the Texas MODDF Fleas are preparing for a fun-filled, Dog-busterin’-Hollywood-Movie themed Scratch in Granbury. There will be all sorts of
movie related festivities presented for the Texas Fleas to enjoy. We’re gettin’ Red Carpet ready for Devil Dog bitin’ and 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 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, Veterans, and your community; and thus be eligible to join the ranks of the M.O.D.D.F. *(FYI ladies - you can be League Associate members and Auxiliary members - several current active Fleas are members of both and are holding appointed League Detachment positions and Auxiliary Unit/Department Flea elected positions).*  Our goals are the same - supporting our Marines, Veterans and children. Please come and join us in our worthy endeavors.

Please visit our state website: www.texasmcl.org, the national website: www.nationalmcla.org and www.nationalmoddf.org for information regarding membership and our charitable programs.

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**National News**

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

September 21, 2016

**MARINES...**

It has been one month since we were all in Tulsa, OK, enjoying ourselves at our National Convention, and it’s time to fill everyone in on what we are doing to improve the League.

A little information to pass on about the Convention: At the Convention we had a total of 840 members, or delegates, in attendance who were very active in attending all business sessions, as well as teaching modules, as they were conducted at daily sessions, for the membership. They were well received and a great many questions were asked for clarification and open dialogue for future classes. These classes will continue into the future and if there are fields of instruction that you wish to see conducted, please make your Division Vice aware of them so they can be put on the agenda.

In connection with our strong relationship with the “Young Marines” of the MCL, your Board of Trustees attended an instructional course that was presented by officers of that affiliate, to update them on the requirements and responsibilities to sit on a Corporate Board. This is all part of our efforts to bring the League into the 21st Century and better represent you at board meetings. It was very well received, and I assure you that there were tons of questions asked and a lot of relevant answers forwarded to our board. The blinders were in essence taken off, and reality checks absorbed by all. It was a great session and my thanks to those in attendance - all for the good of the League.

Chief C.O. Smith has advised me that the Dogs had a great growl and many new...
Pedigrees were initiated and earned the gold dog collar. I did hear a lot of barking and growling going on but fortunately not many wet spots were seen on the carpets in the hotel. From me to all Dogs, thank you for all you do. I understand there are many children in Tulsa who are also very appreciative for your big bone donation to the hospital. “It’s great to be a Dog.”

Within the next few weeks we will have made the transition into our new HQ, in Quantico, VA, “The Crossroads of the Corps.” We are in the business of recruiting and assisting Marines and we will be able to fulfill that mission where the Marines are – “QUANTICO.” We are hoping to have the “Tree of Lights” Ceremony held at our conference center in the new HQ and there will be plenty of room for attendance. Boxes are being packed and the move is set to take place. We ask your indulgence as the computers have to be moved and set up, so there may be some delays. We have a great IT team and it should not take long. Phone calls may still be made as the lines will be set in place.

I would like to thank all of you who were in attendance at the banquet on Friday night for being there to meet and greet the Commandant and SgtMaj when they arrived. We had 523 people in attendance at the banquet and I believe a good time was had by all. Commandant Neller’s remarks and presentation were outstanding and we, as Marines, were very fortunate to have both with us at one time. I can assure you that he is now very aware of our capabilities to assist him with transitioning Marines.

To the Albert Schwab Detachment… I do not believe we can put into words our expressions for the great work you did on this convention. It was indeed a pleasure to have you share your world with us and make us aware of who you are and why our nation is so great. It is indeed my great pleasure to call you brothers and sisters and understand the hardships you endured and the sacrifices you made to ensure America remains great. “Thank you my Friends and Brothers.” You gave us great honor.

From September 25th to September 29th we will be attending MDM at MCB Quantico, where we will be meeting with the leaders of industry who will present the latest tools with which our Corps have available to use in future engagements. If you are in the area come on out and join us during this time. We will be happy to see you and show you around.

EXECITING CHANGES AHEAD

I am sitting in my office for the first time in nearly two weeks. The National Convention is over, and the trailer that carried the Ships Store back from Tulsa was just unpacked. I could write a novel about this Convention, but I will keep it short and simple. If you were not there, you missed a fantastic event. I hope those of you who were there found the atmosphere of the Convention to be as exciting and as friendly as I did. The attitudes of the members in attendance were positive, and the amount of questions asked throughout the sessions amazed me. You are indeed taking an interest in how the daily operation of the League is being conducted, and I both commend and thank you for that interest.

I can’t thank the local host, the Albert E. Schwab Detachment #857, enough for the support they provided to ensure that we had a successful and enjoyable Convention. Regardless of the tasks and type of support provided, your tireless efforts made this a great Convention, and I am sure the entire membership in attendance recognized the
families in your thoughts and prayers, especially those who are in harm’s way. Thank you all for the many hours you spend supporting our veterans. There is no worthier deed than to help a fellow vet.

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

Marine Corps boot camp training is, and always must remain, demanding. Its only objective is to prepare recruits for the Brotherhood, and for the hardships of combat.

On a moonlit Sunday night, 8 April 1956, a Drill Instructor at Parris Island took his Platoon 71 on a forced march. For hours they sloshed through the muck and mire of the swamps and salt marshes surrounding the base.

The Drill Instructor, a 31 year old staff sergeant, a veteran of World War II and Korea with an exemplary record, felt his platoon needed more discipline. As he came to Ribbon Creek, the tidal stream between Horse Island and Parris Island, he shouted: “Anyone who can’t swim will drown! Anyone who can swim will be eaten by the sharks!”

The Drill Instructor plunged into the creek, dutifully followed by his platoon. All safely struggled across to the other side. Then, after humping in circles through the ever-rising water of the salt marshes for a while, they returned to the creek. But, by this time the tide had come in. The current was swift, and Ribbon Creek was now seven feet deep. Heavily laden by their packs and rifles, six recruits drowned.

In the aftermath of the Ribbon Creek tragedy the Marine Corps took a hard look at all aspects of
recruit training and boot camp. The rigid training and ironclad discipline remained, although forced night marches through Ribbon Creek came to a screeching halt. And, the Parris Island Boot published a new Drill Instructor's Creed on 31 August 1956…

These are my recruits. I will train them to the best of my ability. I will develop them into smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Marines, thoroughly indoctrinated in love of Corps and Country. I will demand of them, and demonstrate by my own example, the highest standards of personal conduct, morality, and professional skill.

RIFLEMANS CREED

In boot camp at Parris Island or San Diego, and in the Basic School at Quantico, no one escapes from the Rifleman’s Creed. Every Marine is trained, first and foremost, as a rifleman, for it is the rifleman who must close with and destroy the enemy. The rifleman remains the most basic tenet of Marine Corps doctrine. All else revolves around him. Marine Aviation, Marine Armor, Marine Artillery, and all supporting arms and warfighting assets exist to support the rifleman. It is believed that MajGen William H. Rupertus, USMC, authored the creed shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It is commonly known as the Rifleman’s Creed, but it has also been called “My Rifle: The Creed of a United States Marine.” Every Marine must memorize this creed. And, every Marine must live by the creed.

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must shoot straighter than the enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will. My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit.

My rifle is human, even as I am human, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America’s and there is no enemy.

Pentagon News

Pentagon to Stop Seeking Repayment of California Guard Members’ Fraudulent Enlistment Bonuses

By Lolita C. Baldor and Mathew Daly
The Associated Press
October 26, 2016…

WASHINGTON - U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Wednesday ordered the Pentagon to suspend its effort to seek repayments of enlistment bonuses given to thousands of California National Guard members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Pentagon has demanded that some soldiers repay their enlistment bonuses after audits revealed overpayments by the California National Guard.
Carter’s decision comes in the wake of angry reaction from congressional Republicans and Democrats who demanded he relieve the burden on the Guard members. And the White House said President Barack Obama had warned the Defense Department not to “nickel and dime” service members who were victims of fraud by overzealous recruiters.

In a statement issued during a meeting of defense ministers in Brussels, Carter said effort to collect reimbursement should stop “as soon as is practical.”

He said he has ordered the department to set up a streamlined process by January 1st to help troops get relief from the repayment obligation, because the current program has moved too slowly.

“This process has dragged on too long, for too many service members,” Carter said. “Too many cases have languished without action. That’s unfair to service members and to taxpayers.”

The new process will put “as little burden as possible on any soldier who received an improper payment through no fault of his or her own, Carter said. “At the same time, it will respect our important obligation to the taxpayer.”

Carter said some of the soldiers knew or should have known that they didn’t qualify for the bonuses.

“While some soldiers knew or should have known they were ineligible for benefits they were claiming, many others did not.”

The Pentagon hopes to complete all cases by next July 1st. About 2,000 members of the National Guard in California have been asked to repay the erroneous payments.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said he was pleased at the announcement. McCarthy said he spoke with Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work Tuesday night and told him that veterans “have already given more than what they owe to this nation.

Today’s swift action demonstrated that the Department agrees.”

McCarthy said he will work with other members of Congress to provide a long-term legislative solution so the repayment issue does not recur.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and other members of Congress had urged the Pentagon to suspend efforts to recover the enlistment bonuses, saying Guard members should not be punished for the mistakes of others.

The Los Angeles Times reported over the weekend that the Pentagon has demanded that some soldiers repay their enlistment bonuses after audits revealed overpayments by the California National Guard. Recruiters under pressure to fill ranks and hit enlistment goals at the height of the two wars improperly offered bonuses of $15,000 or more to soldiers who re-enlisted, the newspaper reported. If soldiers refuse to pay the bonus back, they could face interest charges, wage garnishments and tax liens.

During the Fall Staff Meeting the following Department of Texas members stated their intention to run for office at the Department State Convention in June, 2017...

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

**Charles Ynman** .......... Department of Texas  
(currently DOT Commandant)

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

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**Upcoming Events**

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

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

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

- **Marine Military Expo - Marine South**  
  Marine Corps Base • Camp Lejeune, NC  
  **April 12th - 13th, 2017**
Department of Texas State Convention
MCM Hotel Elegante
2355 IH-10 • Beaumont, TX 77705
(977) 842-3606
June 22nd – 25th, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline
for
Texas Marine
WINTER Edition
will be January 15th

Please submit articles/photos to
Juanita O’Dell
@ 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450
OR
juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net
In Search of
Pearl Harbor Survivors

Help us find WWII Veterans from Texas who served in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

Honor Flight Austin wants to take them to a special event in Washington, D.C. on December 6-7, 2016.

For more information, please contact Tina Lee at (512) 974-3306 or contact@honorflightaustin.org.
10 November, Marines gather in groups large and small to celebrate our history, honor the memory of those who have gone before us, and rekindle the bond that unites all generations of Marines. This year, we mark the 241st anniversary of our Corps – 241 years of uncommon valor, innovation, and combat excellence.

Marines, we are part of something bigger than any of us could imagine. Whether you fought in the battles of World War I, in the Pacific during World War II, in Korea or Vietnam, in Desert Shield or Desert Storm, or in the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan – or you are just starting out on your Marine Corps journey – we are all part of an elite family of warriors. For the rest of your life, the first term people use to describe you will be “Marine.”

When the Continental Congress stood up two battalions of Marines in 1775, a culture of discipline, vigilance, professionalism, and military excellence was born that has characterized our Corps for nearly two and a half centuries. As Marines, we have a profound respect for our traditions and heritage, and for taking care of each other. We know we’re strongest when we’re together as a team. Wherever you are celebrating our Corps’ birthday this year, look around at the Marines beside you and remember the bonds forged in training, in garrison, and in combat. Take this time to reconnect.

We are Marines for life. It’s our responsibility, our duty, to maintain and build upon the legacy of those who have gone before us. What we do today, guided by what we’ve learned from past generations, will determine the future of our Corps. So as we celebrate this 241st anniversary of our Corps, we also look ahead and prepare for our next success. Take pride in carrying our legacy forward.

Happy Birthday, Marines! Semper Fidelis,

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

It is time for us to once again reflect upon our past, and look into the future of America’s “911” fighting force. We should remember those Marines who preceded this day.

For 241 years, the tenacity and courage of Marines who defended the Constitution of our Country and the freedoms of our way of life have remained strong and continue to be steadfast in today’s world of conflict and strife.

We were trained to uphold the values of our “Corps” and as we grow older that training becomes more ingrained and does not weaken. We will forever support our “Brother and Sister” warriors because that is what we do.

Not only do we honor our veterans but we pay them the ultimate compliment by remembering them for what they are, “United States Marines!”

As our 241st birthday approaches, we should remember that we are the keepers of our Marine heritage. We will forever retain our love of God, Country and Corps.

“Semper Fi,” and hold our banner on high.”

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

I was a proud veteran
That served my country well.
To those that would listen
I had many stories to tell.

We fought for America’s freedom
In far away places on foreign land.
Wherever the battle for democracy raged,
America’s finest made a stand.

We fought for your future
And the right to remain free.
For we saw what freedom meant
To those not blessed with Liberty.

For you and yours
We would gladly have given our life.
We faced the fears and perils of battle;
We braved endless turmoil and strife.

Please remember us veterans
And the sacrifices we made for you.
Please share the blessings of freedom,
Proudly wave the red, white and blue.
SOUTHERN DIVISION CONFERENCE

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

HOTEL: Holiday Inn South Broadway, 5701 South Broadway
(903) 561-5800 - Use group code Z93 for reservations
$104 plus tax/night (double or king)
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: March 9, 2017

REGISTRATION FEES: MCL/MCLA Members, Spouse - $5/person
FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL: Activity to be announced - $5/person (for food)
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: $35/person (Beef {London Broil} or Chicken {Lemon Pepper Chicken w/Chardonnay Cream})
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL & BANQUET: March 17, 2017

Make checks payable to “Rose City Detachment #1354”
Mail to: Southern Division Conference Committee,
PO Box 132401, Tyler, TX 75713-2401

ADDS FOR PROGRAM:
Inside Front & Back Cover (COLOR) ...... $150
Full Page ............................................. 100
Half Page ............................................. 50
Quarter Page ..................................... 25
Business Card ................................. 15
Name/Single Line ............................ 10
DEADLINE FOR ADS: FEBRUARY 20th, 2017
Make checks payable to “Rose City Detachment #1354”
Mail to: Southern Division Conference Committee, PO Box 132401, Tyler, TX 75713-2401
Camera ready artwork or ad may be emailed to: bearclaw0311@outlook.com

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS: Randy Rigg - randyrigg@suddenlink.net