



LISTEN UP!

Central Bucks Detachment
P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street
Doylestown, Pa.

"ONCE A MARINE - ALWAYS A MARINE"

COMMANDANT - BUDD PEARCE

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL. 9 NO. 4

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1996

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH DETACHMENT MEETING

The scheduled Detachment meeting was held on March 13, 1996, at the American Legion Home on North Street, in Doylestown, Pa.

There were twenty-four (24) members present, including all officers, except the Jr. Vice whose office is vacant at the present time.

Past Commandants Don Parzanese, Frank Yohe and Bill Plant were recognized along with State Public Relations Officer, Don Gee.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as written and published in the newsletter

PAYMASTER

The Paymaster's report for the month of March was read and approved as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Bucks County Military Affairs Office notifying the Detachment that they have moved to the Neshaminy Manor Complex.

Correspondence from New Britain Township requesting that the Detachment participate in the upcoming Fourth of July parade. A motion was made and seconded to participate.

A request was made by the American Legion Post #206, of Lansdale, Pa., that the Central Bucks Detachment march in their Memorial Day parade on Saturday, May 25, 1996. A motion was made and passed to oblige.

The Detachment will also be marching in the Doylestown parade on Monday May 27, 1996.

SR. VICE - Bill Rosenberger

The Department of Penna. Pistol Matches will be held on June 1st and 2nd at Indiantown Gap, Pa. Anyone interested in participating please contact Bill Rosenberger (348-7275) or Ernie Ortiz (541-0307)

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The next highway clean up will be on April 13, 1996. Anyone wishing to have breakfast prior to the work detail can meet at the Rose Garden, in Buckingham, Pa. At 0800. It is always a nice get together and it doesn't take much time out of your Saturdayso..... come on out and join in.

NEWSLETTER ADS

Paul Caprio reported that he had received four more responses to his letters requesting ads for the newsletter.

Don Parzanese asked if the Detachment wished to continue it's ad in the St. Josephs Society Newsletter for another year. A motion was made and passed to do so.

POW/MIA

Bill Plant reported that there is a good article in the March Legion magazine concerning the missing servicemen.

Reports have been handled poorly and it is felt that there are still some prisoners alive.

VAVS

Don Gee reported that a committee has been formed to plan the "Stand Down 96" at the VA hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. The three-day event will house, feed and clothe approximately three hundred (300) homeless veterans over a three day period.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Flea Market

Paul Caprio is putting together details for the Detachment's Spring Flea Market which will be on a Saturday, possibly in May or June. It is hopeful that the Food Cart will be ready to be used by that time.

Ladies Auxiliary

To date, seven ladies have signed up for the proposed Detachment Ladies Auxiliary. A date will be set with the State Auxiliary Commander to form a local detachment group.

BY-LAWS

Mike Waldron proposed that a change be made in the by-laws to allow for two year terms for officers, rather than a single year. He also suggested that approval for absentee ballots be pursued. The proposed changes would have to be reviewed by the Department of Pennsylvania.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

There will be a Six-Mile Walk at Peace Valley Park on April 28, 1996 for benefit of the March of Dimes. If you are interested, see Don Parzanese.

Frank Yohe reported that the "Devil Dogs," at All Divisions Detachment, are looking for new members. To qualify, you must be a member of the MCL for at least one year. You then write a letter to the Devil Dogs Detachment indicating why you wish to become a member. Initiation will be held in May so if you desire to join this elite group, please get busy and send in your request.

Don Gee has acquired a military tent. He will open it up to check on the condition and if it is OK he will pass it onto the Young Marines for their use.

Bob Randle discussed purchasing "T" shirts to sell as a money maker for the Detachment. He would like some input as to a design that could be used. Possibly a prize could be offered to make it more interesting.

DETACHMENT ELECTIONS

A slate of officers that had been presented by the Nominating Committee was read according to the procedures set forth in the by-laws. There were no new nominations from the floor and the vote was by secret ballot which were destroyed after the counting of the votes. The following are the results of the Detachment election for 1996:

Commandant - **DON GEE**
Sr. Vice Commandant - **BILL ROSENBERGER**
Jr. Vice Commandant - **ERNESTO ORTIZ**
Judge Advocate - **DON PARZANESE**
Paymaster - **BOB CODY**
Adjutant - **RAY KROUT**

Don Gee thanked Commandant Pearce for the three years that he has spent as head of the Central Bucks Detachment and for all the positive things that he has accomplished during his tenure in office. The Detachment has moved forward steadily and certainly has made its' presence known in the Department of Penna.

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Bill Rosenberger and Ernie Ortiz plan to attend leadership school in Carlisle, Pa. on May 4th & 5th

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE 10 APRIL 96 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME ON NORTH STREET IN DOYLESTOWN, PA.

MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. Who was the first black Woman Marine officer?
2. When did the Mayaguez incident take place?
3. When did the United States officially end World War I?
4. During WWII, who said, "I have just returned from visiting Marines at the front and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world?"
5. Which U. S. Navy warship was the first to sail around the world?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. VMF-214 is the "Black Sheep" squadron.
2. The first Marine ever accused of espionage was Corporal Clayton Lonetree.
3. When the Marines landed in the Bahamas in 1776, they raised the Grand Union flag and the Rattlesnake (Don't Tread on Me) flag.
4. Smedley D. Butler was nicknamed "Old Gimlet Eye."
5. There were four Marine parachute battalions formed in WWII.



From The Desk **COMMANDANT - BUDD PEARCE**
Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League

Marines,

It seems like only yesterday that I sat down to write my first letter as Commandant of Central Bucks Detachment. Now here it is three years later and I am sitting down to write my last. It has been a great three years and I had a great amount of fun being commandant. I was greatly honored that the Marines of this Detachment thought enough of me to elect me three times in a row to be their Commandant. I appreciate all the support and help that everyone has given me during my time in office. I am sure that you will give the incoming Commandant, Don Gee, all the respect, advice and overall support that you have given me. Again, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you Marines. You have made me proud to be your commandant, your friend and your fellow Marine.

Don Gee and I went to the quarterly meeting in Carlisle on 23 March. I spoke to the Department of PA Commandant Dave Pavey and he assures me that he will be here for our installations on 10 April. It will be a pleasure to have him here and quite an honor considering the distance he must travel. I hope that everyone will be at the April meeting to say hello to the Commandant and show your support to your newly elected officers. Your support is extremely important to each of these officers and the best way to show that support is to come to the meetings, especially the installations. Remember, you can bring your family members if you would like, as this will be an informal meeting (business wise). Please wear your uniform (Jacket w/tie) to this meeting, if possible.

There is news from the Department Rifle and Pistol matches. The Pistol Match Will be held on 1 & 2 June 1996. You may sign in anytime after 12 noon on 31 April. The Rifle Match is slated for 27, 28, 29 September, with sign-in anytime after noon on the 27th. There is room for you on any of the teams, so if you have been thinking of getting out there and capping a few rounds, now is the time to do it!!! Contact Sr. Vice Bill Rosenberger or myself for additional information.

I don't want to forget to remind you that the Detachment will be participating in two parades this Memorial Day weekend. We will be in the Landsdale parade on Saturday 27 May and in the Doylestown parade on Monday 27 May. I hope that as many of you as possible can make these events. It is important to get the name of the Detachment, as well as the Marine Corps League, out in the public eye as much as possible and this is a great way to do it. We will have our float in both parades, as far as I know, so you will not have to walk (unless you are in the color guard).

That's all for now...Thanks again and Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Budd Pearce".



BUX-MONT YOUNG MARINES
Walter B. Roach
Commanding Officer

P.O. Box 476, Dublin, PA 18917
(215) 361-1632 or (215) 361-2990
Fax: (215) 361-5929

ACTIVITIES OF THE YOUNG MARINES

WITH THE HOLIDAYS BEHIND US AND HOPEFULLY THE ADVERSE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE YOUNG MARINES HAVE RETURNED TO A NORMAL DRILL SCHEDULE WITH PLENTY OF ACTIVITY AHEAD. MARCH 13TH DRILL WAS HELD AT THE ARMY RESERVE CENTER ON ROUTE 611 HORSHAM AT WHICH TIME SOME YOUNG MARINES WERE AWARDED THE GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON.

MARCH 16TH WE FELL IN AT THE 14TH MARINES IN WEST TRENTON AND THEN LOADED UP AND PROCEEDED TO THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE MUSEUM AT DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, WEST TRENTON, N.J. THE YOUNG MARINES WERE GIVEN A LESSON ABOUT THE STATE POLICE AND WERE ALLOWED FREE TIME TO EXPLORE THE HANDS ON EXHIBITS IN THE LEARNING-INFORMATION CENTER. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED THE N.J. STATE POLICE WILL BE HOLDING AN OPEN HOUSE MAY 11, 1996 AT DIVISION HEADQUARTERS IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 1-609-882-2000, ASK FOR THE MUSEUM.

MARCH 27TH REGULAR DRILL WAS HELD AT MAG 49, WILLOW GROVE NAVAL AIR STATION.

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At the Corps

Consider it required reading

Rifleman Dodd heads up commandant's book list

By Chris Lawson
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — If there's one thing that Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Charles Krulak wants his Marines to read this year — aside from his much-ballyhooed Planning Guidance, which doubtless you read last year — it's "Rifleman Dodd," a 151-page novel that, to Krulak, exemplifies what commitment to duty is all about.

Based on the fictional exploits of a young British rifleman cut off from his unit while fighting in the Peninsula Wars with the French in the early 1800s, *Rifleman Dodd* has been tapped as this year's "Commandant's Choice" on the Professional Reading Program.

The book "is the story of an infantryman... and the personal character, determination, innovation, and physical toughness required of soldiers of that period," wrote Krulak in a letter that he hands out along with copies of the book to Marines he meets in his travels. "In this brief narrative, Marines can find much that is relevant to their lives and professions."

Dodd has been on the Marine's Professional Reading List since the list was first developed in 1989. But Krulak decided to elevate its status this year to coincide with his leadership theme for 1996: commitment.

“**“We’re concerned that society seems to have lost the traditional commitment we expect of its citizens, and we’re trying to instill that in Marines. *Dodd* is a fine example.”**

— Lt. Gen. Paul K. Van Riper
— Combat Development Command

Lt. Gen. Paul K. Van Riper, the commanding general of the Corps' Combat Development Command and overseer of the annual reading list, said *Dodd* should help instill the value of commitment to all Marines, regardless of age or rank.

"We're concerned that society seems to have lost the traditional commitment we expect of its citizens, and we're trying to instill that in Marines," Van Riper said. "Dodd is a fine example."

This simple, military story, written in "trooper" language that most Marines will appreciate, centers on the trials and tribulations of young Matthew Dodd, a rifleman with the British Ninety-Fifth Foot infantry regiment.

Tough and committed

During a skirmish with French soldiers, Dodd and his British comrades are forced to retreat, and Dodd subsequently gets cut off from the regiment. He survives the next two months by committing himself to fighting his way back to his regiment and, along the way, organizes a band of Portuguese guerrillas to assist in his quest as well as battle the French enemy.

"It goes so much beyond escape and evasion," Van Riper said. "It's a story of remarkable endurance and commitment to duty."

Van Riper said Dodd's actions reflect the Marine's "core" values: honor, courage and commitment. In addition, the book illustrates the difficulties of operating against, and also in support of, irregular forces, a problem

Rifleman Dodd

C. S. FORESTER

His choice: Commandant Gen. Charles Krulak wants every Marine to read *Rifleman Dodd*.

of growing concern to the Marines who have deployed to such troubled places as Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia in recent years.

"Marines today need to study irregular wars — current and past — in order to prepare ourselves for similar conflicts in the future," Krulak wrote in a message announcing his reading choice. "Reading *Rifleman Dodd* will provide an insight to such conflicts through the eyes of soldiers and guerrillas."

Reading tips: What to look for

While courage and commitment are hallmarks of the book, there are other attributes Krulak and Van Riper want their Marines to grasp:

■ **Modesty.** When the rag-tag Dodd finally does get back to his unit, he must convince his leaders that he's not a deserter. No one knows of his heroic and arduous exploits, and he sees no real reason to toot his own horn.

"All he wants is to get by the fire and get back with his mates," Van Riper said. "The only reward he was looking for is to rejoin his unit and have a meal with them."

■ **Hold fast to the ethos.** Despite months in the field cut off from friendly lines, Dodd takes great pains to care and clean his trusty rifle and other combat equipment.

"He knows he must keep that weapon clean and functional," Van Riper said. "The ethos of every Marine is that we're all [the] rifleman. Those are things that we can identify with."

The Commandant's Choice also is intended to serve as a means of bringing Marines together to discuss important issues, Van Riper said.

Marines can get a copy of *Rifleman Dodd* by writing the Marine Corps Association bookstore at: P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or by calling DSN #278-3171, or 1-800-336-0291.

The book costs \$17.95 for association members, and \$19.95 for nonmembers. There is a \$2 shipping charge.

A course to make sergeants think first

By Jon R. Anderson
Times staff writer

QUANTICO, Va. — GySgt. Billy Wooten knows he's got a lot to learn if he gets selected for first sergeant this year. As an instructor at the NCO Academy here, Wooten is already pretty well versed on what it means to lead Marines.

Still, he's got a long laundry list of things he wants to know if he survives the cut and pins on the heavy rank of first sergeant.

If selected, Wooten will be in luck. This year's crop of new first sergeants will be the first in years to enjoy a formal course designed specifically to give them the tools they'll need to master their new jobs.

What's covered

While specifics of the course are still being fine-tuned, officials here at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command say the two-week syllabus will be packed. Among the areas covered:

■ **Leadership.** The top mission of every first sergeant is to take care of the troops. That means everything from making sure their Marines get enough chow out the field to serving as their company's own example of a Marine's Marine.

■ **Evaluation and counseling.** First sergeants must help write fitness reports and teach their troops what it means to be a professional.

■ **Legal.** They must become expert on everything from the sticky problems of divorce to the right way to kick a problem Marine out of the Corps.

■ **Administration.** While much of the paperwork load has been lifted from first sergeants in recent years, there is still a lot a first sergeant must know.

■ **Drill and ceremonies.** The company formation is a whole new world of details, and the first-sergeant is the Marine responsible to make sure the troops — not to mention the officers — are standing tall.

■ **Local issues.** First sergeants need to stay on top of everything from the commanding general's policy on off-limit bars to the battalion's standard operating procedure for packing a rucksack.

The initial First Sergeant's Course will be held at Quantico a few months after the new E-8/E-9 promotion list is released, probably in June or July. Just over 200 new first sergeants are expected to be selected this year.

Late summer debut

The first course will include all of the local selectees and give instructors a chance to get feedback from students before the course goes Corps-wide.

After that, the rest of the selectees will either all come to Quantico for one big class or the instructors will go on the road and teach the course at each of the Corps' noncommissioned officer academies.

One way or the other, by the end of summer all the selectees should have completed the course. Those who can't, because of deployments or other commitments, must get up to speed the old-fashioned way, by seeking out tips and advice from experienced first sergeants and sergeants major in their area.

The course is being designed by three of Quantico's most seasoned noncommissioned officers: Sgt. Maj. Lonnie Sanders, the top NCO of the Marine Corps University, Sgt. Maj. H.T. Chapman, sergeant major of the Combat Development Command, and Sgt. Maj. John M. Mersino, director of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Quantico.

When a gunny becomes a first sergeant, that promotion means a move into a new military occupational specialty, said Chapman. All first sergeants drop whatever MOS they had built a career on and become what the Corps calls simply a 9999.

Of the Corps' MOS nomenclatures, there is no higher number. And many Marines think there's no higher responsibility either.

The ultimate mission

"Marine leaders are always taught to first accomplish the mission and then take care of their Marines," said Chapman. "Well, a first sergeant's mission is to take care of Marines."

Hand in glove with that, said Sanders, is the first sergeant's responsibility to be both an adviser to the commanding officer and enforcer of his orders. And with first sergeants being the most seasoned Marines of any company, it's their job to be mentors to both the troops and officers. As Chapman puts it, "That's what he's getting paid for: his knowledge and experience."

But going from technical expert to mentor-enforcer and all-round tender of the flock can be a tough transformation.

"This course will facilitate that transition — and it is a big transition," said Chapman.

Gunny Wooten, for one, is glad the course will be there if he gets selected.

The unit diary is one thing he knows he'll have to become intimately familiar with. He also knows one of the biggest parts of taking care of Marines is helping them make sure their pay is squared away.

"First sergeants need to know everything about a Marine's pay," Wooten said.

The same goes for being able to read — and really understand — everything from guidance from headquarters to a Marine's orders to his next duty station.

More than a third of the 80-hour course will be devoted to working through administrative responsibilities of the first sergeant. A full day will be spent helping first sergeants learn how use computers to make that load a little easier.

"These first sergeants going into the next century are going to have to be computer savvy," said Chapman. "They can't be afraid of those things anymore."

The new first sergeants will also sit in with panels of experienced commanders and staff officers, who will discuss the complexities of the first sergeant-commander relationship.

They'll get a chance to pick the brains of top staff NCOs as well.

'Bring an open mind'

Advice for those who make the grade is simple.

"Bring an open mind and an extra suitcase," said Chapman, displaying an encyclopedia's worth of material the new students will be given to work through during the class and take back to their new jobs when they're done.

A combination handbook-reference library, the binders are packed with extracts of need-to-know items from legal manuals, pay and allowance policies, evaluation writing guidance and drill and ceremony standards, among others. New first sergeants will even get a copy of the Commander's Handbook.

"It's all designed to be a ready reference to pull off the shelf whenever you need it," said Chapman. "It won't have all the answers, but we hope it will give them enough material to know where to find the answers."

In short, said Chapman and Sanders, that is what the course is all about: A launching pad for new first sergeants to be the company's best answerman.

Discipline: Backbone of quality of life

Any warfighter will tell you that a viable armed force wanting to remain that way must evolve with the times. Not just when it comes to weaponry and tactics, but psychologically, morally and logistically, as well as in the realm of effective leadership techniques.

Let's look at how the Marine Corps has evolved over the past 20 years, and focus on changes — for better or for worse — in quality-of-life concerns that are always taking shape.

Our biggest quality-of-life problem 20 years ago was substance abuse. That remained true even 15 or 10 years ago. In a classic mistake made by many a war machine in the past, the Marines had very nearly won that battle when we decided to suddenly take a break. Lo and behold, drug usage is once again on the rise. If we don't get a firm grip on this problem immediately, all the other quality-of-life improvements we have in the pipeline will be for naught.

The second biggest problem we had 20 years ago was a leadership gap. This was brought on by a lack of quality control in the recruiting and promotion processes, and was fostered by substance abuse and racial discord (our third biggest problem). So, one problem begat another, which begat another. We had no effective means of promoting only the very best. Even if you were a mess, you stood a pretty good chance of being promoted not only into and within the noncommissioned officer ranks, but the staff NCO and officer ranks as well.

Today, the promotion process is, despite the claims of many, reeking of the insidious zero-defects mentality. You don't agree? You would if you were routinely briefed by promotion board members. They'd tell you that nearly every Marine selected for promotion had no marks below outstanding, and that a single comment in section C of a Marine's fitness report viewed as less than stellar by any member of the board is frequently cause for his failing selection — even if he had all outstanding in section B and was rated 1 of 10.

Hey, I'm not making any of this stuff up; I am just telling you what I am told by board members. Twenty years ago we would promote anyone, and now we fail to promote be-

cause of overinflated fitreps and the perception that any flaw seen in a Marine, imagined or documented, is grounds for not being selected for promotion.

Racism is the third biggest problem. It never really went away, but we have done a good job of keeping it in check. Still, there are some out there who haven't received the word and are living in the 1940s. Find them, get rid of them and we'll have a stronger Corps. You can tell by the smell when you are near one.

As I've mentioned, a major problem 20 years ago revolved around leaders, namely how they should treat Marines. We still haven't got a handle on this, but today the concern is we are handling them with too much sweetness and concern for their innermost feelings. Such a turnaround. In the past we just screamed at them with neither rhyme nor reason because that's what we were taught to do; the Marine way.

This is one where we need to split the difference. Treat them with the respect due them, but never fear to use the stick when needed. And it is needed far more often than current conventional wisdom dictates. The principle is to be firm but fair, but we have forgotten the firm part.

Instead, starting in the 1970s, we became more interested in removing the NCOs from the squad bay, and later giving the non-NCOs two and three-man rooms. Now we are told that our current bachelor enlisted quarters are unsatisfactory in design, and that each Marine rates a private boudoir. He'll love it, of course, but the unit will suffer from an increased lack of shared deprivation, if you can call living in a squad bay being deprived. When Marines are forced to endure hardship as a team — if one is face down in the mud, then everyone is — you will have a more effective fighting force.

If we turn our attention back to tougher training and more demanding leadership requirements, we'll have the best quality of life available: survival on the battlefield.

Dan McGrew is the pseudonym for a staff noncommissioned officer with 19 years in the Marine Corps. These are his opinions.

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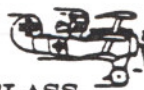


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