



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XII, Number 8

AUGUST 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS SET

WASHINGTON-- The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War commemoration, authorized by Congress and conducted by DoD, will thank and honor Korean War veterans and their families; especially those who lost loved ones.

Over a four-year period, more than 35 commemorative events are scheduled to show that a "Grateful Nation Remembers" their service and sacrifice.

Marine Corps' 'Black Belt' Test Approved by CMC

Top Marine **General James L. Jones** hopes to give every Marine a chance to earn the equivalent of a black belt.

As a test, a four-week martial arts course kicked off recently at Twentynine Palms, California, under control of a handful of the Marine's best close-combat instructors.

Whether the program continues will depend upon the success and enthusiasm of the Marines involved, as well as any training challenges.

If it goes full-scale, Marines who move up in skill levels will be issued T-shirts indicating their qualifications.

Unlike civilian martial arts students, Marines will learn techniques from a variety of disciplines, from ninjitsu to boxing, said a program spokesman.

From 2000 to 2003, events will take place throughout the United States, Republic of Korea and the Pacific region, reflecting the U. S. military, its allies and the United Nations' concerted efforts during the Korean War.

This year's commemorative events include:

Sept. 13--Breakout of Pusan Perimeter Commemoration - Teagu, Republic of Korea.

Sept. 15-17--Inchon Landing/Pusan Perimeter Commemoration - Norfolk, VA.

Nov. 11--Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Commemoration - Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Nov. 27--Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Commemoration - Camp Pendleton/San Diego, CA.

Dec. 12--Hungnam Redeployment and Evacuation Commemoration - Navy Memorial, Washington, DC.

The commemorative community program was the foundation for the World War II commemoration where more than 7,800 groups actively participated. The commemorative community program continues during the Korean War commemoration.

For more information about the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, call (703) 604-0820 or visit the website at <http://korea50.army.mil>.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 9 AUGUST 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

The 4th of July Parade in Chalfont/New Britain went really well. Our float was tied with the local Brownie Troop for 1st Place in the "Patriotic Division." The people from the Borough called me to say we edged out the Brownies in a tie-breaker. I told them to go to the Brownies and tell them they had edged us out. The prize was the same as last year and I figured they could use the hamburger coupons more than we could. Also, you know it's going to make their day when they get told they beat the Marines. Thanks to everyone who made it to the parade. It was hot, but it was a good time and it keeps our Detachment

in the public eye. Our Color Guard led the parade, followed by our float. There wasn't even a police car in front of us. It's a wonder we didn't leave the whole parade behind, but it was still with us when we got to the park

I was very happy to see our numbers up at the July meeting. We have been down in the 30 percent bracket for a couple of months, but we went back up to the high 40 percent in July. I still find it hard to believe we can continue to get that high a turn-out for our meetings. You guys are really great! Keep up the good work! We even signed up a new member in July. At the meeting in August we should start hearing some

updates on the progress of the upcoming Birthday Ball. Our Junior Vice Commandant will be putting together a winner, I'm sure. You know how he likes things done right. Go get 'em, Gunny!

I was going to thank everyone who helped at the highway clean-up, but it got rained out and the rain date has not happened at the time of this writing. Thanks, in advance, to everyone anyway. That's all I have for right now, so I'll wrap this up. See you at the August meeting.

Semper Ej,



OFF THE MARINE CORPS BOOK SHELF

UNHERALDED VICTORY: The Defeat of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army 1961-1973

by **Mark W. Woodruff**

Vandamere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Arlington, VA 22205
\$24.95 hardcover

Former Marine **Mark W. Woodruff** served with 2/3 in Vietnam from December 1967 to December 1968. After leaving the Corps, he attended Pepperdine University in California, earning his baccalaureate degree and a masters degree in psychology. Now living in Australia, Woodruff is a psychologist with the Royal Australian Navy and the Vietnam Veterans Counseling Service in Perth, Western Australia. He is now

a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

* * *

Unheralded Victory is a long overdue, factual review of the Vietnam War. His observations are supported with factual documentation.

Every person who served in any military branch during Vietnam should read this book. Every Marine who served in 'Nam NEEDS to read this book

Woodruff sets the record straight by examining the myth of Vietnam as presented by North Vietnam through its highly successful *Dich Van* program and the American media with its failure (with a few exceptions) to assign creditable correspondents to cover the war for "the folks back home."

He has painstakingly examined every facet of the Vietnam War from the earliest U.S. involvement as "advisors" to the final evacuation from the U. S. Embassy.

Unheralded Victory puts the reader "in country" experiencing the tactics and strategy of the patrol, platoon and company carrying the fight to the enemy. One can almost feel the heat of the jungle and the intensity of the battle.

He challenges ALL of the myths posulated during Vietnam. He challenges

them not with emotion as most of us who served during that period have done, but with incontrovertible fact upon fact. He cites documentation from officials on both sides of the War to rebut the "expert" accounts of battles and campaigns by those who obtained their information from second or third-hand sources.

This book should be mandatory reading for all who claim to "know" about Vietnam without ever having "been there."

It should also be required reading for all those fledgling print and broadcast journalists who will cover the next "emergency" our military faces. It wouldn't hurt to have the current big names in the mass communications community read it either. They could all learn something about accuracy and manipulating the media.

Unheralded Victory is written in plain language that puts the reader at the battle scene and gives him a view of "the big picture" that so many Vietnam veterans never saw. Woodruff, at long last, gives credit to the guy who fought and WON the war while keeping him separate from the political aspects of the conflict. He shows HOW the war was won...and how it became a truly *Unheralded Victory*.

Don Gee



LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636, Inc.** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held on July 12, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #213, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Director of Public Relations and Past Commandant Don Gee, Past Commandant Frank Yohe, and Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth.**

The Minutes of the June Meeting were unanimously approved.

The Paymaster's Report was presented by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The report was unanimously accepted.

New Member: Ed Lynch of Chalfont was unanimously approved for regular membership.

Commandant Budd Pearce presented a Meritorious Commendation (Individual) from the Department of Pennsylvania to Marine Mike Waldron for his support of the Department's Headquarters Dedication project. He also presented Service Awards to Detachment members **Don Gee, Thomas Lyons, Tony Parzanese, Bob Randall, Bruce Sergeant, Steve Weir, Charles Wilson, and Charles Wurst** and a plaque for First Place in the Pistol Marksman Class to **Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger**. The team won the award at the 2000 Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 52 including 14 Life Members, 34 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported **Paymaster Bob Cody's** granddaughter was a recipient of a Department of Pennsylvania Scholarship Award this year. He reported the Detachment had also received 100% Membership and 2000 Convention streamers for the Detachment Colors. Plans have been confirmed for the Detachment to hold the annual Birthday Ball on Nov. 11 at the Orion Club at NAS, Willow Grove.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported the Detachment had received no communications from either the Department or National Marine Corps League Headquarters.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reminded the members to submit requests for specific items for the QM Locker Box to him and he would try to acquire them.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Relations--Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, set July 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the August issue of *Listen Up!*

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce set Saturday, July 15, as the date for the highway clean-up, with July 22 as the "rain date." He reminded the members to meet at Lu's Place in Edison at 8 a.m. for breakfast (on the Detachment).

OLD BUSINESS

Marine Mike Waldron reported on what was required of the Detachment to sponsor the Marine Band appearance in this area during the Fall of 2002. The Detachment unanimously approved a motion to sponsor the Band's performance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, August 9, at 7:30 p.m.

State-of-the-Art USO Lounge Opens at BWI Airport

by **Rudi Williams**
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, DC--More than 250,000 service members and their families are expected to find "a home away from home" annually at the recently opened USO lounge at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

The \$1.1 million, 5,000-square-foot lounge is the USO's largest and most modern. The state-of-the-art full service facility will serve 99 percent of the service members traveling to and from duty stations in Europe, Southwest Asia and the United States. The lounge is open to active duty personnel, reservists, retirees and their families from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Jan. 20 was the official grand opening, but the center started serving service members and their families more than a month earlier, said **Adrian Schultz**, Lounge Director.

"We opened the doors on Dec. 16 in the nick of time for the mass exodus of troops from Fort Lee (VA) and Aberdeen (Proving Ground, MD) for the Christmas holidays," he said.

"More than 2,200 soldiers in uniform came through heading home for the holidays."

Several top military leaders and local, state and national political representatives were joined by actor **James Brolin** at the ceremony.

Brolin, best known for his starring roles in the long-running TV series "Marcus Welby, M.D." and "Hotel," is the star of the weekly syndicated series "Pensacola: Wings of Gold."

"I feel so much appreciation for the USO," Brolin said. "It is your work that conveys our country's appreciation to its service members."

And to service members everywhere, he added, "whatever you are doing in the service of this country, never doubt that you are doing it for a good reason, no matter how menial it may seem at the time."

Schultz said many military travelers "are amazed that this is a USO. They're used to USO centers in a hand-me-down room with old furniture," she said.

"This lounge was designed especially

for the modern needs of traveling service members and their families," said **Elaine Rogers**, President of the USO of Metropolitan Washington.

"Everything is self-contained, including a kids room, rest rooms inside the center, and a sleeping room with top-of-the-line sleeping chairs and lights that can be dimmed or turned to total darkness.

"We also have a technology center with computers outfitted with top-of-the-line software and internet service," Rogers said.

"The lounge has a complimentary snack bar, and its cafe tables are wired so travelers can plug in their laptop computers to access the Internet and send e-mail messages, she noted.

The lounge also features a television lounge with a 72-inch screen, and a nursery filled with cribs, toys, books, children's furniture, a television and videocassette recorder, "with a slew of children's movies," Schultz said.

"There is never enough baggage storage space at USO centers worldwide, but we've solved that problem here," Rogers noted.

"When service members enter the center with carts stacked with duffel bags and other luggage, we have a huge baggage room where they can store their belongings.

"This a a quality of life issue and we

wanted to provide the best possible service for service members and their families," Rogers said.

"Our four corporate sponsors--Microsoft, Cendant, Lockheed-Martin, and AT&T--have contributed \$1 million to maintain the center in a first-class manner." Rogers said technology firms also outfitted the center with up-to-date fax machines, copiers, telephone systems and security systems.

Noting that Baltimore-Washington International is the Air Force Air Mobility Command's newest and largest gateway, Rogers said the command installed flight monitors in the center so everyone can check flight information without leaving the USO.

Service members are surprised by some of the assistance the lounge provides, Schultz said. For example, she said, a young soldier paid a woman \$100 to drive him to Washington to get a passport so he could get a space-available flight to Germany. The woman ran out of gas on the way and the soldier hitchhiked to get gas for her. When he returned to the USO, the staff noticed he'd spilled the gas on his clothes.

"We told him if he had something to change into, we'd be happy to wash his clothes for him," Schultz said. "He was thrilled that we have a washer and dryer here. We also have irons and ironing boards.

"He said, 'There's a God up there looking out for me'," Schultz said.

The only full-time employee, Schultz said the lounge is staffed by volunteers, including active duty military personnel, reservists, military retirees and civilians. She plans to expand the hours when she gets enough volunteers to staff the hospitality desk.

Two of the charter members of her volunteer staff are **Bette and Carlo De-Porto**, recent recipients of the USO of Metropolitan Washington's first lifetime volunteer service award in recognition of their 41 years of combined service as USO volunteers. The couple met in 1942 at a USO dance at Fort Lewis, WA, where Bette was a volunteer and Carlo was a soldier. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 22.

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RENEWALS**
AUGUST
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James G. HERBST
Bob MOMORELLA
Bill ROSENBERGER

SEPTEMBER
Stephen J. DALY
Michael D. METZ
Charles J. WILSON Jr.
Vincent J. YEASTED



VA Facilities-- Where to Go for Help



VA has toll-free numbers for the convenience of veterans and dependents. To assure accurate information and courteous responses are given to the public, VA supervisors occasionally monitor telephone calls. Toll-free telephone services include:

- * VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000
- * Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477
- * Debt Management Center 1-800-827-0648
- * Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833
- * CHAMPVA 1-800-733-8387
- * Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947
- * Gulf War Helpline 1-800-749-8387
- * Mammography Hotline 1-888-492-7844
- * Sexual Trauma Hotline 1-800-827-1000
- * Emergency Medical Preparedness 304-263-0811

* VA On-Line telnet: //vaonline.va.gov/ or via data line 1-800-US1-VETS
up to 28.8KBPS at 8-N-1 modem setting

* VA World Wide Net Home Page Server <http://www.va.gov/>

* The VA Federal Benefits booklet and other VA information is available to the public by computer.

Old '6-Bys' May Become Things of the Past

by Cpl. Abigail B. LaBin

29 PALMS, CA--Every Marine with a bad five-ton experience in their life should have seen it. It was big, it was green, it was a truck, but as one of the Corps' newest pieces of gear growled across the desert here, it was also tolling a bell for the venerable five-ton truck.

The Marines testing the 7.1-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement are traveling the continent testing it against just about every combination of elemental and operator abuse they can dream up. The truck is doing amazingly well.

"This is about 100 percent better than the five-ton," said Lance Corporal Brent Burch, a driver on the MTRV testing team.

"The independent suspension and horsepower it puts out make for a smoother ride."

The smoother ride was a big selling point with 3rd Platoon, "L" Company,

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The platoon volunteered their morning to take a ride in the back of the new truck and practice tactical dismounts and rapid extractions from it.

After testing the ride and climbing in

and out of the vehicle, the Marines of 3/7 filled out questionnaires.

The Marines were asked to comment on the smoothness and comfort of the ride and, also, on the degree of security they felt in the back.

Lockheed Martin Corporation Tops U. S. Government Contractor List

WASHINGTON--The Department of Defense announced recently that the FY-99 report of "100 Companies Receiving the Largest Dollar Volume of Prime Contract awards (Top 100)" is now available on the World Wide Web.

The website for this publication and other DoD contract statistics is: <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/peidhome/proestat/p01/fy1999/top100.htm>.

According to the new report, the top 10 Defense contractors for FY-99 (in

billions) were:

Lockheed Martin Corp. (\$12.7), The Boeing Co. (\$11.6), Raytheon Corp. (\$6.4), General Dynamics Corp. (\$4.6), Northrop Grumman Corp. (\$3.2), United Technologies Corp. (\$2.4), Litton Industries Inc. (\$2.1), General Electric Co. (\$1.7), TRW Inc. (\$1.4), and Textron Inc. (\$1.4).

In FY-99, DoD prime contract awards totaled \$125 billion; \$6.9 billion more than in FY-98.

Different Rules for TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan

With the FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, the Department of Defense has the necessary authority, unavailable a year ago; to explore options for enhancing the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP).

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) officials are evaluating alternatives for obtaining additional dental services such as crowns and dentures, that can be offered while maintaining enrollees' premiums at an affordable level.

Uniformed service retirees and their family members are offered dental benefits through voluntary enrollment in the TRDP. They will not have dental benefits under the TRICARE Dental Program for active duty family members and eligible Reserve Component personnel, to be implemented Feb. 1, 2001.

Established Feb. 1, 1998, the TRDP provides dental care for Uniformed Service retirees, unremarried surviving spouses, and certain other family members. Enrollment in TRDP is voluntary and is administered by the Delta Dental

Plan (DDP) of California. The TRDP is funded solely by enrollees and receives no government subsidy. It was implemented under different legislation and different rules from those applicable to active duty family members and reservists. More than 500,000 retirees and their family members are enrolled. While the program provides coverage for a range of services, many retirees and their family members have requested additional benefits.

Additional information about the TRDP including enrollment forms is available at the DDP web site: www.ddpdelta.org. Delta Dental representatives are also

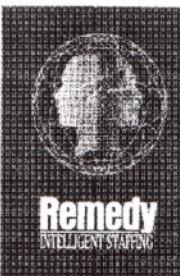
available at:

Customer Service: P. O. Box 537077, Sacramento, CA 95853-7007
Toll-free telephone: (888) 336-3260
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I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose \$30.00 for one year's membership (which includes subscription to **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE**).

I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, the character of my service has been honorable and, if discharged, I am in receipt of an Honorable Discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of Honorable Discharge/service upon request.

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(Applicant's Signature)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P.O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

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