



# LISTEN UP!

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

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XIII, Number 8

AUGUST 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372  
**Meets**  
7:30 p.m.,  
2d Wednesday of Month  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:**  
DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.

**ADJUTANT:**  
GARY SMITH

**PAYMASTER:**  
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**JUDGE ADVOCATE:**  
BOB MOMORELLA

**QUARTERMASTER:**  
ROBERT DUFF

**CHAPLAIN**  
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**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:**  
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

**MESS SERGEANT**  
WIL HAAS

**WEBMASTER**  
TRACY BROCKMAN

**MARINE OF THE YEAR**  
BOB MOMORELLA

## DoD Awards Retiree Contract

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has announced its intent to award ACS Government Services of Rockville, MD, a contract to provide pay services to its 2.5 million Department of Defense retirees and annuitants with a monthly payroll of more than \$2.6 billion.

This action is a result of a U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 cost comparison study and is expected to save the Department of Defense approximately \$36 million over the life of the contract.

The A-76 program establishes processes and procedures for determining whether public or private sector organizations should perform government activities. The OMB guidelines have a two-step process that first involves selecting a service provider that offers the best value, and second the selected private-sector provider competes against the government's most efficient organization proposal.

The award to ACS is tentative pending a public review period of not less than 20 days as required under the A-76 program guidelines. During this period, interested parties, such as affected employees, may file an appeal.

Following the public review, ACS would be expected to assume pay services late this calendar year. While operations will stay in their current locations - Denver and Cleveland - during the first year of operations, ACS will consolidate most business operations at the Cleveland site during their second year of operations.

Currently there are approximately 535 retiree and annuitant services employees at Cleveland and Denver. DFAS and ACS are working to develop a workforce transition plan specific to each affected site.

The plans will include options such as employment with the contractor, relocation, re-training for employees placed in new positions, early retirement offers (if qualified) or placement on a DoD priority placement list. DFAS is working with union representatives during the transition.

ACS is a Fortune 1000 company providing information technology and business process outsourcing to commercial and government clients worldwide. ACS, with over \$2 billion of annual revenue, employs nearly 20,000 people in 21 countries.

For more DoD A-76 information go to <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/inst/share.nsf>.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT  
1930 ON 8 AUGUST 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,  
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I want to thank those who made it to the highway clean up. For those who couldn't make it, let me tell you that you missed taking a nice walk with us on one of this summer's nicest mornings. Oh, well, come to the next one in October and hope for a beautiful autumn day. Details and date of the next clean up will be announced at the meeting in September and a reminder will be in the newsletter.

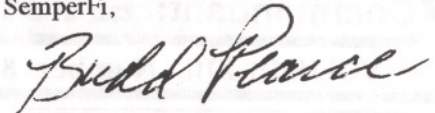
Speaking of people turning out for things, I really want to thank everyone

for come to the 4th of July parade. We had a great turn out and our float won first place in the patriotic division. In the prize basket were some miniature golf coupons, some Burger King and McDonald's coupons. There was also an assortment of crackers and fruit snacks. I will bring in the coupons to the August meeting so if you want a couple take them. The parade was pretty good this year, as there seemed to be a few more people than usual. It always makes it nicer when there are a lot of people there. Oh well, not all parades can be

like the Doylestown Memorial Day parade. Thanks again for coming out and making our Detachment look good!

Not much else to say right now...hope everyone is having a great summer. Come to the meetings! Bring another Marine and get a free 50/50 ticket. See you there.

SemperFi,



## Marines Helping to Identify 'Blackbeard' Artifacts

By Cpl. Jason Morris

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, NC.-- Air Station and 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines are helping local researchers to identify artifacts that could be from the Queen Anne's Revenge, pirate ship of the infamous pirate Blackbeard.

What could be a cannon from the Queen Anne's Revenge was recovered from the ocean floor recently by the North Carolina State Underwater Archeology Unit's Queen Anne's Revenge Project. When it was brought ashore, a team from the Cherry Point Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit assisted the Queen Anne's Revenge Project by providing X-ray equipment and technical expertise.

"We use the EOD unit for several reasons," said Wayne Lusardi, the Queen Anne's Revenge Project lead conservator. "We are a non-profit organization and don't have the funds to purchase the

X-ray equipment and materials ourselves.

"Another reason is for the possible hazards we may come across with some of the items we pull up," said the Newport, N.C., native. "I've worked on ships that were older than this wreckage and have pulled up cannons with dry powder inside."

EOD Marines have had extensive training in the proper handling and disposal of such volatile and hazardous material such as black gunpowder, and the unit has assisted with the project for the past three years.

"We were able to get some good training when we helped Wayne this time," said CWO-2 Bradley Garfield, Marine Wing Support Group 27 EOD officer.

"We used a new modification of the advanced radio graphics system, which is now a computer-based system.

"I have to admit, it wasn't as productive as we had anticipated," continued the Burlington, Vt., native. "This machine is used to X-ray thin-cased munitions. The concretion mass around the item was too dense for us to fully determine what was inside it."

The size and shape of the concretion mass is similar to what has been discovered by the project team before, all of which have contained cannons.

A small portion of metal can be seen on the bottom of the mass, which gives Lusardi high hopes that it is another cannon pulled from the watery

depths.

"We were able to see an outline that did seem like a cannon, but that was all we could determine," said Garfield.

The EOD unit also uses these opportunities as a chance to help build community relations and bring out a little more history when working with the project team.

"I enjoy doing this type of work," said Garfield. "It's not only good training, but it also gives me a good feeling that we are helping out the community. We are helping a project team that doesn't have that much funding.

"We are also assisting the local and state communities by restoring a part of their history," said Garfield. "It feels good to be a part, even if it is just a small part, of the contribution."

Some of the findings of the North Carolina State Underwater Archeology Unit's Queen Anne's Revenge Project can be seen at [www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/qar](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/qar).



### 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.

### 2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DETACHMENT MEETING  
AUGUST 8

DETACHMENT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12

DETACHMENT MEETING  
OCTOBER 10



# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held July 11, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 24 members in attendance including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Public Relations Officer and Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Department Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin**, **Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr.** and **Frank Yohe**, and **Marine of the Year Bob Momorella**.

The Minutes of the May Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

**Sick Call:** Marine Jim Marckstein is undergoing more therapy and Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling is scheduled to undergo knee surgery.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Budd Pearce** reported the Detachment and that we had received a "Thank You" note from **Lindsay Rosenberger** for our support of her cheerleading organization.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 56 members: 19 Life Members, 34 Regular Members, and 4 Associate members. There are 3 Delinquent Members.

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr.** announced the Detachment will need a replacement for him as Junior Vice Commandant. He is reenlisting in the Marine Corps and will be leaving for active duty shortly. Anyone interested in filling the position for the remainder of the year should contact Commandant Pearce at (215) 343-5609.

**Adjutant Gary Smith** reported the Detachment had received no correspondence other than that already reported.

**Judge Advocate Bob Momorella** reported the Audit Committee had reviewed the Paymaster's records and found them to be in order.

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

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reported the Locker Box has some new Marine Corps-related items for sale.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Rifle & Pistol Team--** Commandant Pearce announced the Detachment Pistol Team had taken 3rd Place in this year's Department Pistol Match. The team is still accepting new members. If you're interested in joining the Rifle & Pistol team contact **Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** or Commandant Pearce.

**Adopt-A-Highway--** Commandant Pearce announced the quarterly highway clean-up will take place on Saturday, July 14, with the members meeting at Tilley's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast on the Detachment.

**Public Relations--**The Public Relations Officer set July 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the August issue of "Listen Up!" He also showed the members the new and improved Marine Corps League license plate now being issued by PennDOT.

## OLD BUSINESS

**4th of July Parade--** Commandant Bud Pearce reported the Detachment had taken 1st Place honors in the "Patriotic Division" of the New Britain 4th of July Parade. A discussion about the Detachment Float followed with several courses of action sub,submitted. Further discussion was tabled until the August Meeting.

**Mess Sergeant Wil Haas** reported the bus trip to 8th & I was booked up. The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and approved to donate \$100 to the Flood Victim Relief Fund.

## GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

**Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin** gave a report to the members about the Department Convention. He also presented a 2nd Place Newsletter Award to the Detachment for "Listen Up!"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "Blue Angels" will be holding a reception at JRB, Willow Grove on Friday, Sept. 7. The Detachment approved a \$10 "Patron" donation to the program. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children. (See Page 5 of this issue for form)

**Marine Mike Waldron** showed a copy of a letter written by his wife in response to Kohl's Department Store's refusal to let the VFW sell poppies in front of its stores. Subsequent discussion found that this was a long-standing Kohl's policy not to let any organization sell or solicit at its stores. He also handed out copies of a "Flag Etiquette" booklet.

Marine Waldron announced the Liberty Bell Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association will hold its Birthday Ball at the Sheraton in Atlantic City. Cost is \$40 and includes dinner and a three-hour Open Bar. Reservations at the hotel are \$60.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8.**



# DOD NEWS BRIEFS

## House Passes GI Bill Hike

The House unanimously passed one of the biggest GI Bill increases ever last month.

Under the legislation, benefits for a veteran with three years of service would almost double over the next three years from the current \$650 a month to \$1,100.

For veterans with two years of service or reservists who have served four years, the max benefit would rise from \$528 to \$894 over three years.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., House Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman, said the benefit, when fully phased in, would increase from today's \$23,400 to \$39,600, enough, he said, to cover costs for a commuter student at a four-year public college. The Senate takes up the bill next.

## Concurrent Receipt Refuses to Die

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., has lambasted the way disabled military retirees must fund their own disability benefit.

Reid hopes to correct the inequity with the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2001, thus ending what he and groups supporting military retirees believe is a 110-year injustice that prevents military retirees from receiving full military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

"I am going to do everything I can to make sure this passes in some form and is sent to the President to be signed," said Reid.

## BAH Boost Approved For E-1s through E-4s

Service members in pay grades E-1 through E-4 who have families and live off base will see an increase in their Basic Allowance for Housing July 1.

The average monthly increase will be more than \$50, with E-4s seeing a smaller boost of about \$11.

Actual increases will vary, depending

on the cost of living in particular areas. A two-bedroom town house is the off-base housing standard on which the BAH is built for E-1s, E-2s and E-3s with families, according to Pentagon policy. For E-5s, a two-bedroom townhouse or duplex is the standard.

## Tricare for Life Threatens Class Act

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has set aside an earlier ruling concerning the Class Act Lawsuit brought by retired Air Force Colonel Bud Day, a Medal of Honor holder.

The earlier ruling agreed that the government had reneged on free lifetime healthcare promises for military retirees who entered service prior to June 7, 1956.

If the ruling had stood, it would have required the government to pay up to three million retirees, widows and dependents up to \$10,000 apiece. The new decision calls for a rehearing before the full court, and gives the parties two months to file new briefs.

Placed at issue are three legal questions: (1) is a lifetime healthcare promise enforceable under the law; (2) has Congress already fulfilled such promises through DoD-provided healthcare, and (3) does Tricare for Life, effective October 1, negate the validity of the plaintiffs' claim. See [www.classactlawsuit.com](http://www.classactlawsuit.com).

## Medicare Part B Break Possible for Retirees

The Tricare senior pharmacy service that began April 1 and the Tricare-for-Life program coming October 1 go a long way toward giving Medicare-eligible military retirees the lifetime medical care they were promised by recruiting pitches.

However, eligibility depends upon their paying into Medicare Part B. If they didn't opt for Part B earlier, they now face a \$5 monthly add-on to premiums (currently \$50 a month) for every

year they could have taken Part B but didn't.

The Tricare Retirees Opportunity Act, introduced by Rep. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., would offer a grandfathering window. Under the bill, military retirees could enroll at any time between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2002 without penalty, and their enrollment would be effective the first day of the following month.

## Marine Emblems Possible for Sailors

An estimated 800 sailors and Navy officers serving with the Marine Corps who meet the Marines' appearance and grooming standards may be wearing the Marine Corps Emblem on the new Marine camouflage uniform.

In spite of reported disagreement by 85 percent of 178 Marine E-9s, top Marine General James L. Jones says Navy members assigned to the Fleet Marine Force may wear the emblem if the Navy approves.

Some Marines disagree because Marines earn the emblem only by successfully completing boot camp. Complicating the issue is the cost factor because the new field uniform comes only with the emblem embroidered on the left breast pocket.

## Desert Town Turns Deadly for Residents

Fourteen military and civilian children from families living in the vicinity of Fallon, NV, have been stricken with leukemia recently, including a 10-year-old civilian boy who died.

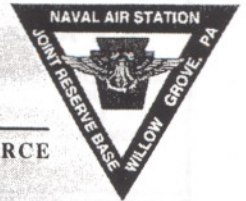
According to health experts, a town the size of Fallon, with less than 9,000 residents, could expect only a single case of childhood leukemia every five years. Investigators have been unable to pinpoint the cause. The town, 60 miles east of Reno, is home to nearby Naval Air Station Fallon, which hosts 7,200 service members and families. Ages of the victims range from 2 to 19, and only four are from service families.



# Blue Angels

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<input type="checkbox"/> Squadron Sponsor .....	\$750	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Flight Sponsor .....	\$300	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron .....	\$10	\$ _____

My line should read: \_\_\_\_\_

All sponsorships must be received by July 31, 2001.

**Ticket Purchase:**

	<b># of Tickets</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Adult Tickets @ \$20/ticket	_____	\$ _____
Children's Tickets @ \$5/Ticket	_____	\$ _____
<b>Total enclosed:</b>		\$ _____

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## Application for Membership Marine Corps League

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Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement \_\_\_\_\_ SSN# \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application -- New ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( ) Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor - where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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**

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**  
**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
**Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**



**"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"**