

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 - DON GEE

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL. 9 NO. 8

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1996

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JULY DETACHMENT MEETING

The regular Detachment meeting was held on July 10, 1996 (1930) at the American Legion Home on North Street, in Doylestown, Pa.

There were twenty-five (25) members present including all officers.

One visitor was present, who was an applicant for membership: Bob Momorella, Chalfont, Pa. His request was approved and the swearing in ceremony was held.

Past Commandants; Budd Pearce, Don Parzanese, Frank Yohe and Bill Plant were recognized along with Marine of the Year, Bob Schaffer and Ed Hoth, past Commandant Dept. Of New Jersey.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

SR. VICE - Bill Rosenberger

As of this date the Detachment has sixty (60) members; forty-five(45) regular, fourteen (14) life, and nine (9) associate. There are thirteen(13) delinquent.

JR. VICE - Ernie Ortiz

The annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be held on November 9, 1996 at the Pitcarin Club, the ("E") Club, NAS, Willow Grove, Pa. The committee will decide on the menu and price per person. Down payment is to be made to hold the reservation. There will be more details later.

The **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** clean-up will be on August 3, 1996(0900).

PAYMASTER

The reports for May and June 3 were presented and approved.
The minutes of the June meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Everyone was reminded to collect and turn in as many Genuardi cash register receipts as possible since they are refunded for cash (1%) by the market. Every little bit helps.

CHAPLAIN

The Chapel of Four Chaplains nomination blanks are available for the nomination of any members who are deserving for their work in the community and the MCL.

SGT.-AT -ARMS

The Detachment Color Guard marched in two parades (Memorial Day and Fourth of July) and also were present at the Special Olympics at Collegeville, Pa. They did a fine job on all outings.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter editor, Bob Schaffer, has requested that a replacement be appointed since the duties of his employment are too time consuming for him to continue. The Commandant indicated that a new editor will be assigned following the August edition.

STANDING COMMITTEES

POW/MIA - Bill Plant

Bill reported that he attended a high level meeting concerning Vietnam veterans and there were many conflicting reports which tends to add more confusion to the overall situation.

VAVS

Don Gee reported that he has contributed thirty-eight (38) hours at the VA Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa., since our last meeting.

The Detachment has received \$100.00 award from the Dept. of Pa. for VA/VS activities.

Operation "Standdown" will be in operation again this year on September 6-7-8 at the Lighthouse Field in Philadelphia, Pa.. If you can donate some time to this worthy endeavor please contact Don Gee.

NEWSLETTER ADS

Three more new ads have been received in response the letters that were mailed to businesses in the area.

GENUARDI & REDNER TAPES

It was reported that about \$1200.00 worth of Redners Market tapes have been turned in to the Detachment as well as an undisclosed amount of Genuardi tapes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

LADIES AUXILIARY

On July 20, 1996 a meeting is scheduled at Paul Caprio's home in an attempt to form a Ladies Auxiliary group. A minimum of seven members is necessary to begin and to be eligible for a charter. After this first meeting, the ladies will take over and from there on it is up to them.

FLEA MARKET.... Paul Caprio expects to meet with the owner of the proposed flea market location and firm up the details for the event which is expected to be sometime in August. More information will be available at the August Detachment meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The new Detachment Quartermaster will be Don Parzanese Jr. who is taking over for Don Gee.

Ernie Ortiz made an announcement that if the Detachment has any Civil War buffs, the 69th Regiment is starting a Marine Civil War Unit and they are looking for any interested people. See Ernie.!

Paul Caprio reported that he attended the Air Show at Willow Grove NAS and he noticed that various businesses had tables or booths set up. He suggested that next year the Detachment should have a table with assorted Marine Corps items for sale, as has been done in the past at various locations.

CONVENTION AWARDS - The Detachment was given a flag streamer for attending the Dept. of Pa. Convention, in King of Prussia, Pa. The Detachment also received a first place, Category I Americanism award.

Bob Schaffer received a Certificate of Merit for the Detachment Newsletter.

The Detachment Pistol Team participated in the matches at Indiantown Gap. They were able to move up three places in the standings since last year. Patches were awarded to team members: Ernie Ortiz, Budd Pearce, Paul Caprio, Bill Rosenberger, Bob Randle and Joe Hazen.

The Rifle Matches are scheduled for September 27-28-29. As always, the Detachment is looking for additional team members. They must be registered by August 1st. There is practice every Sunday during the summer.

The Detachment is checking into white leather straps to be used by the color guard.

Paul Caprio reported that we may possibly have a Marine Recruiter at the August meeting to show a film and give a little talk.

A suggestion was made that the Detachment consider having a Xmas party for the wives and kids, in December.

Motion was made and passed to give Herb Krout a check for \$50.00 to help pay for the gas he has used in his truck, over the years, while pulling the float in many, many parades.

A motion was made and passed to reimburse the former quartermaster \$564.32 which was owed to him for merchandise that he had purchased for the locker box. During his tour as quartermaster, he spent a total of \$1681.50 for items to sell, which netted a profit of \$329.12, for the Detachment.

Herb Krout offered his property for a family type picnic and a motion was made and passed to schedule this event early in September, of this year.

Will Haas suggested that Detachment members and their wives or any friends or relatives that were interested in having dinner at the Inn On Blueberry Hill on the Saturday night after the Adopt-A-Highway trash pick-up contact him and he would make the arrangements.

Bob Randell requested that the Detachment Color Guard be present at the Willow Grove Legion's POW/MIA Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, 14 September 96 (1300) to participate in the service.

Don Parzanese Jr. has returned to active reserve duty at MAG 49, Willow Grove NA

Mike Waldron reported that the Third Marine Division is scheduled to have a convention in Philadelphia, 28 JULY 96. If you are interested...see Mike.

It was reported that Robert Fay, a charter and life member of the Central Bucks Detachment passed away. Chaplain Budd Pearce will contact the family to see if they wish the Detachment to hold services.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE 14 AUGUST 96 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME ON NORTH STREET, IN DOYLESTOWN, PA.



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

Since our last meeting, there has been a lot of "behind the scene" activity.

The Central Bucks Unit of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is becoming a reality thanks to the efforts of Marine **Paul Caprio**. Several pre-Charter meetings have been held, officers have been elected and appointed and the enthusiasm and dedication of these ladies are unbelievably high. Officers for the Unit include **Cathe Rosenberger**, President; **Susanne Smith**, Senior Vice President; **Evelyn Caprio**, Junior Vice President; **Paula Caprio**, Secretary; **Tammy Gee**, Treasurer and Judge Advocate; and, **Suzanne Pearce**, Chaplain. The Unit is in the process of finalizing its Charter Application. We look forward to having the Central Bucks Unit as our partner.

Senior Vice Commandant **Bill Rosenberger** and Junior Vice Commandant **Ernie Ortiz** have been spear-heading reclamation activities at Past Commandant **Bill Plant**'s "C-B Supply Depot." The object of this effort is to provide "serviceable" clothing, sleeping bags, etc., from among the tons of material the Detachment recently acquired for "Standdown '96." "Standdown" is the annual three-day program which feeds, clothes, houses, counseling, and provides medical treatment for homeless veterans in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. "Standdown" will be held next month (Sept. 6-8) at Light House Field in Philadelphia. **Bill Plant** and Mess Sergeant **Wil Haas** have already volunteered to help on the program's Security staff.

By the time this is printed, we will have already held our "Adopt-A-Highway" clean-up on Aug. 3 and our "Family Get-Together" Dinner at the Blueberry Hill Restaurant in Warrington. **Wil Haas** put the evening together for us.

Chaplain **Budd Pearce** has put together a "Dinner-Theater" evening for the Detachment and our families for next month and Marine **Caprio** has finalized our "Flea Market" fund-raiser. Both will have full details on these activities at this month's meeting.

On a personal note, I had the honor and pleasure to have dinner at the Commandant of the Marine Corps' table at the 42nd Annual Reunion of the 3d Marine Division Association at the Adams Mark Hotel in Philly on Saturday, July 27. It was an extremely pleasant evening. **Gen. Krulak** and his wife are pleasant, down-to-earth people. The Commandant is energetic and dedicated and has a great sense of humor. Others at the table included retired **Gen. Ray Davis** and fellow Medal of Honor winner **Col. Harvey "Barney" Barnum**, an old friend from my Combat Correspondent Presidency days. Why was I seated at that table? I had just been hired as the Association's new Public Affairs Officer. All-in-all, it was a most rewarding week.

Enough for now. More stuff next month.

Semper Fi,

Chaplain's Corner

This month I have to report the death of one of our life members. Marine Robert Fay passed away at the end of June. Although the offer of a service was made to the survivors, their choice was to decline that offer. I know that a few of our members knew Marine Fay and would have liked to perform our customary services for a fallen brother Marine, but if a member's family chooses not to have us do this, there is not much we can say about it. We can, and will, continue to send our sympathies to the family members that survive, along with our offer of assistance if it becomes needed. Marine Fay was a member of many civic groups and through his participation in these organizations demonstrated his loyalty to his Country and the Corps. May he rest in peace!

I just got word from Bill Rosenberger that Bob Randle is under the weather. It seems as though the poison ivy, or whatever it was that he had, got worse. He has undergone some tests and should know shortly what he is suffering from. I'm sure that either he or Bill will keep me informed so that I can get the news out to the rest of the membership. Our thoughts are with you Bob, and if you need anything, just give me a call! I haven't heard of any other of our members or their families' being ill or in distress this month, so I hope that all are doing well!

Other than being Chaplain I have also become the Chairman of the Annual Picnic Committee. I am happy to say that we will be holding our 1st Annual Picnic on the 7th of September. I hope to see everyone at Herb Krout's, on Pickertown Rd. in Warrington for this! The Detachment needs to have an event such as this so that the entire family can feel that they are truly a part of the Central Bucks family! Look for the official announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.



MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. What is the candlepower of the MK1 illuminating hand grenade?
2. What should a Marine do upon a nuclear explosion without warning?
3. Where is the largest Marine amphibious training base located?
4. What is the oldest of the official songs of the Armed Forces?
Who commanded the first Marines to land at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. Approximately 19 million gallons of "Agent Orange" were dropped on Vietnam.
2. Commandant Major General A. A. Vandegrift was nicknamed "Sunny Jim."
3. The first Marine MEDEVAC pilot was General Christian F. Schilt.
4. When the Marines landed in the Bahamas in 1776 they raised the Grand Union flag and the Rattlesnake Flag (Don't Tread on Me).
5. The first black Woman Marine officer was Warrant Officer Annie Grimes.

ATTENTION!!!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT'S FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC!

SAT. 7 SEPTEMBER

at

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1200 - 1600

**TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN BRING, CONTACT
BUDD Pearce at 343-5609**

**THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE AUGUST 14TH
MEETING. WE WILL NEED TO GET A LIST TOGETHER OF WHAT
EACH PERSON IS GOING TO BRING. THIS WILL BE A FAMILY
STYLE PICNIC, SO BRING A LITTLE TO SHARE.**

**THIS IS AN AFFAIR FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!!!
THERE WILL BE VOLLEYBALL, HORSESHOES
AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS GOOD
FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY.**

**I SINCERELY HOPE THAT ALL OUR MEMBERS WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE THERE FOR THIS!
IT SHOULD BE A LOT OF FUN FOR ALL!**

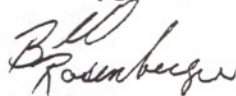
7/25/96

R&R:

It's that time again to remind you, as to what R&R is. It's Recruit and Renewal. I'm certain that every member is recruiting whenever possible

PS: I just wanted to congratulate the pistol team on a job well done. We actually moved up three places to thirteenth overall; and just a reminder the Rifle team has begun practices. If you are interested in joining us contact me A.S.A.P

Thank you,



Senior Vice Commandant

NIXING NUPTIALS

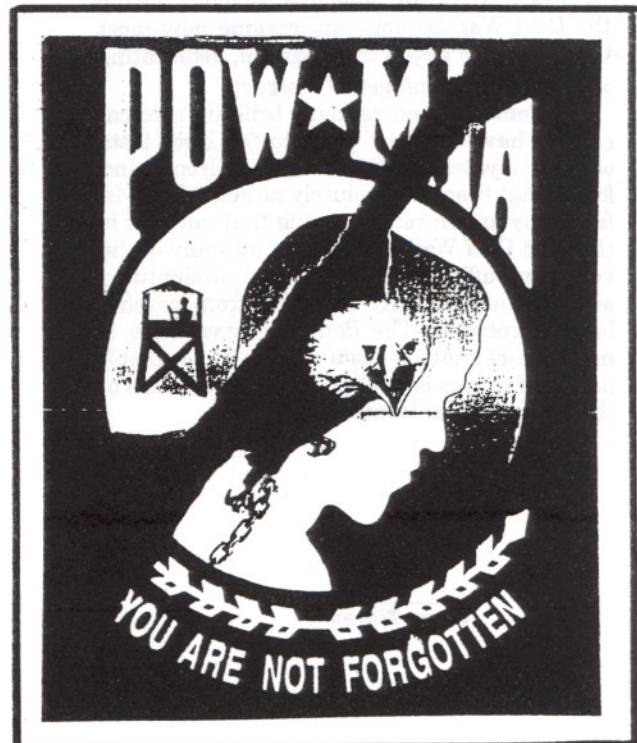


THE service that tried to curtail marriage among its youngest enlistees in 1993 now has banned marriages between officers and enlisted troops even if one of the couple is from another service.

The new rules come from a task force working for Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Charles C. Krulak. Marine leaders contend officers must remain aloof from enlisted Marines in order to treat all enlistees fairly and equally. Personal feelings are not supposed to enter into it, a warrant officer explained.

Thus, close personal relationships between officers and enlisted Marines are forbidden. Earlier Marine Corps regulations conveyed the same message but did not specifically ban officer-enlisted marriages.

The new rules make one exception an enlisted Marine who gets commissioned or an officer who reverts to enlisted status may stay married even if the marriage breaks the new rank barriers.



By Dan McGrew

Once again, sick vets

get shafted

When you watch the evening newsread a newspaper these days, you sometimes come across a report that is in some way linked to a cover-up by the U.S. government. I've mentioned a few of them before, including the government's secret LSD and chemical warfare experiments on unknowing American servicemen, and have written twice on the on-going quandary tens of thousands of U.S. servicemen and women who served in the Gulf War are experiencing.

The problem — like those faced by Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange during that war — is that the government, specifically the Pentagon, refuses to even admit that huge numbers of Gulf War veterans are suffering from ailments caused by something, or a series of somethings, that happened to them during the desert war.

After Vietnam the government and the Pentagon steadfastly denied that the startlingly high numbers of Vietnam vets who were suffering ungodly illnesses had anything to do with anything remotely involving the war. It took 20 years for the Pentagon to admit that, yes, Agent Orange, a defoliant widely used in Vietnam, was was, in fact, the cause of the horrible cancers and other shocking medical problems many Vietnam vets were experiencing.

This debacle mirrored the Pentagon's initial denial but ultimate admission that it had intentionally poisoned untold numbers of vets with LSD and even chemical weapons during the Cold War. So you can imagine why most Gulf War vets began their painful, debilitating odyssey with a smidgen of distrust.

The Pentagon and its many brilliant medical experts have supposedly conducted some tests on this mysterious Gulf War Syndrome and found that there is absolutely no such thing. In fact, they are on record saying that not only is there no Gulf War Syndrome, but many of the veterans suffering from strange, unidentified ailments are actually suffering from psychological problems. The Pentagon says there is no evidence that suggests any single or combination of causes is to blame for the problems of these whining malcontents.

Well, that's just not the case. A study was done in Scotland that showed when you mix two pesticides commonly used by troops in the Gulf War, with a not-quite-fully-tested (read: experimental) anti-nerve agent prophylaxis that we all took intravenously, the result is a set of medical problems remarkably similar to those experienced by vets suffering from Gulf War Syndrome.

The Pentagon ignored the report, naturally. But Duke University just performed a similar study and found the same thing. When asked about this, the Pentagon said it hadn't had a chance to review the study's findings, or some such poppycock, and reasserted that psychological factors should be investigated as to why so many vets are claiming illness.

I'm no space shuttle mission specialist ("rocket scientist" is passé), but even I can put two and two together. And when tens of thousands of Gulf War vets start turning up with similar symptoms and complaints — including vets who served with other armed forces from around the world — I can see there is a common thread. I can also read, and what I read about the history of the Pentagon abusing its members isn't good.

So when are the fat-cat Pentagon brass going to quit jerking around Gulf War vets who are obviously ailing? When are they going to realize that we know what they are up to?

They are repeating history by stonewalling and ignoring the facts while bureaucratic jargon meant to appease those sick vets does absolutely nothing for them. And why are they doing this? Because the government doesn't want to have to deal with another Agent Orange fiasco. Remember, Agent Orange cost the government — and the manufacturer — big-time, and with the budget deficit the way it is, well, you get the picture.

Sick Gulf War vets can get some help by contacting the National Gulf War Resource Center, 1224 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

The center's e-mail address is: <http://www.charles@gulfwar.org> or check out their World Wide Web page at: http://www.gulfwar.org/Resource_Center/. These folks have information on VA and Social Security Administration benefits, litigation against chemical companies, and where and how to get help. At least *someone* is willing to lend a hand.

Navy Times

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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() I hereby apply for membership in the Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ 30.00 for one year's membership.

*Includes \$2.00 subscription to MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE

I hereby certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that 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)

(Applicant's signature)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment.