



# LISTEN UP!

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

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

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December 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
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2d Wednesday of Month  
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR**  
BOB MOMORELLA

## MARINE HEADS ANTI-TERRORISM OFFICE

WASHINGTON -- The Customs Service has chosen a former Marine to guide its efforts to keep terrorists and their tools from entering the country.

As director of a newly created anti-terrorism office, **William Parrish** will focus on ways to detect and prevent deadly biological, chemical or nuclear materials - things that are a threat to the country and can be used for mass destruction - from coming across the nation's borders.

"Fighting terrorism is now our top priority," Customs Commissioner Robert Bonner said in making the announcement.

"The challenge we're facing is to make sure we're doing all we reasonably can to prevent both terrorists themselves and the implements of terrorism from entering the United States," he added.

For years, Customs - the nation's oldest law enforcement agency, founded in 1789 - has viewed its top mission as fighting drug smuggling. That's not to say terrorism hadn't been on Customs' radar screen. The agency was credited with thwarting a terrorist attack before the millennium celebration.

Customs inspectors stopped an Algerian man at the border at Port Angeles, WA, in December 1999 and found more than 100 pounds of explosives in the trunk of his car. The man had trained in terrorist camps run by **Osama bin Laden** - who the United States considers the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have caused the agency to shift its priorities.

One of Parrish's first assignments, Bonner said, will be to review training programs for inspectors and agents to determine what changes, if any, need to be made to help employees identify terrorists and any dangerous materials or weapons that they may try to smuggle into the country.

Parrish also will be looking at whether there is additional technology needed.

Bonner said Parrish will report directly to him. Current Customs employees will be reassigned to work in Parrish's office and some new people will be hired. Parrish has 29 years of counterterrorism and security experience.

Before joining Customs, Parrish worked for the Department of Energy's OakRidge Institute for Science and Education, which provides, among other things, national security assistance to other federal agencies.

He also worked at the State Department where he developed a counterterrorism training program aimed at dealing with weapons of mass destruction.

In the Marine Corps, Parrish served as a commanding officer of the U. S. Marine Corps Security Forces, comprised of nearly 4,000 Marines. He also led an anti-terrorism team that dealt with the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Tower apartments in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where 19 U.S. servicemen died.



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Thanks to all who made it to the November meeting. Everyone looked sharp and the Young Marines were very impressed with our turnout.

The Detachment received some nice awards from the Young Marines and the Atomic Cheerleaders.

**Marine Bill Rosenberger's daughter, Lindsay**, a member of the Atomic group, presented us a very nice plaque and a copy of their ad book. I will have the book at the December meeting for those of you that didn't get a chance to see it yet. The Young Marines gave us a framed poster and a plaque, which I will also have with me in December. They also handed out personal notes written by each of them to all the members present. That was a very nice thing to do for us old veterans.

They also honored Bob Sundling for the great job he does helping them out with the kids. Our resident policeman, **Charlie Wurst**, got a nice award, too, for his support of the Young Marine fund-raisers they do in his township.

The Detachment handed out some awards themselves at the meeting. I was lucky enough to have won the **Fran Meyers Award** again for being high shooter at the yearly rifle match at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

**Chaplain Frank Yohe, PC**, was named as this year's "Marine-of-the-Year"!!! Congratulations Frank, you are an outstanding example to each member of this Detachment and it's an honor to be associated with you. The committee did a great job and I wish to thank them



## 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.

for making such a good choice.

This year **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** will be taking the toys we donate in December to the Marines at MAG 49 for the "Toys for Tots" program. This year, as in past years, we will be collecting toys at the December meeting for needy kids. Every year the Detachment members are very generous with their toy giving, but sometimes things come up and a member can't get to the meeting. This year I want to make sure that we get as many toys as we possibly can. I want each of you to call me in the event you can't make the meeting and I will personally pick up your toy donations.

## 100-Yr.-Old Marine Returns Souvenirs

*By Sgt. Chanin Nuntavong*

**NORTHPORT, NY** -- In April, 1945, **Captain Richard B. Fredey**, a 542nd Night Fighter Squadron ground officer, found a 45-pound bronze Okinawan temple bell on a hillside near Naha, Japan and mailed it back to the United States as a souvenir of his wartime experience.

Now, more than 56 years later he is giving the bell back to the Okinawans.

"It's better to give than to receive," said Fredey. "I felt that an item of this kind was a symbol of good fortune, happiness and religion. The best place for the bell is back where it came from."

According to **Alex Kishaba**, Ryukyu America Historical Research Society Chairman, this is about the sixth bell to be returned since the end of World War II.

"The last bell was returned in July of 1986," he said.

Kishaba said the bell will be dedicated at the Okinawa Mabuni Peace Park, Itoam, Japan as "The Peace Bell of the 21st Century" and will have an added inscription in memory of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

For Fredey, returning the bell, two Japanese officer's swords and a Japanese flag, back to the Okinawans is a gesture of peace.

"If I can make even the smallest con-

tribution to peace and happiness in this world, that is what I want to accomplish" he said.

Remember, even though you might have gotten some nice toys to bring in, sometimes things happen and you can't get there. That should be no reason why some needy child should do without.

Please give generously and take advantage of my free pick up service. I might even throw in a candy cane, or two, as a thank you when I come for the toys.

In case I don't see you at the December meeting, have a great holiday season! May you and your family have a very Happy New Year!

Semper Fi,

*Budd Plance*

According to Kishaba, 141 items of personal nature have been returned to their families.

"The society is asking all veterans of the war against Japan to return their war souvenirs to be given back to their families or placed in Japanese museums," he said.

The 100-year-old Fredey served in the Marine Corps during World War I and World War II. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Colonel in 1964.

## **2001-2002** **SCHEDULE** **OF EVENTS**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 12**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**JANUARY 1**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**JANUARY 9**



# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held October 17, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 24 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr. and Frank Yohe; Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year Bob Momorella**. Invited guests included the families of our members and the Liberty Young Marines and their families.

The Minutes of the September Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The Paymaster's Report was tabled until the December Meeting.

**Sick Call:** Former Detachment Member **Tony Parzanese** has been diagnosed with C.O.P.D.

The Detachment has received a Membership Application from **Tim Neumann** (of Lansdale) who will be voted upon at the December Meeting.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Budd Pearce** reported the Detachment had been awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation and accompanying streamer for our Detachment Colors. We also received a "Thank You" note from **Julie Prout** in appreciation of the scholarship award she received. The Commandant also reported death of Past National and Department Commandant and long-time Department Adjutant Paul Seton. He also reported on the Plumsteadville Memorial Day Program. The Commandant, **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** and **Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC**, represented the Detachment and participated in the flag-raising ceremony.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 59 members including 20 Life Members, 34 Regular Members, and 5 Associate Members. We have 8 Delinquent Members.

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr.** announced the United Veterans of Doylestown was planning a memorial service in January or February for veterans of all conflicts.

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

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

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported we had received no new requests for our Color Guard since the last meeting.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reported he has a source for procuring Dress Blues Trousers. Contact him for more details.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** presented the **Fran Meyers Trophy** to Commandant Pearce and individual awards to Rifle & Pistol Team members.

**Public Relations--** The Public Relations Officer set November 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the December issue of *Listen Up!*

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

## NEW BUSINESS

**2000 "Marine of the Year" Bob Momorella** announced the **2001 "Marine of the Year" to be Frank Yohe, PC**.

## GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

The Young Marines Unit presented a plaque to the Detachment for sponsoring the unit, presented a poster honoring all veterans, a Certificate of Appreciation to **Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** for his work with the Unit, and a plaque to **Marine Charlie Wurst** for his support of the Unit's fund-raising activities. Additionally, each Detachment member was presented a "Thank You" gift from members of the Unit.

Marine Rosenberger's daughter, Lindsay, presented a plaque to the Detachment for supporting the Atomic group.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12.**

**FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE DETACHMENT AND THE YOUNG MARINES UNIT AND GUESTS ENJOYED A BRIEF 226TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WHICH INCLUDED A FORMAL CAKE-CUTTING AND PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST TWO PIECES OF CAKE TO THE OLDEST MARINE PRESENT AND THE YOUNGEST (YOUNG) MARINE PRESENT.**

## SAM'S CLUB

Leaguers belonging to Sam's Club are reminded the \$25 annual fee is due at the end of December. Just go to Sam's Club in Willow Grove and pay the fee.

Marines interested in joining the Marine Corps League group at Sam's Club must go to Sam's Club and pay the \$25 fee.



# DOD NEWS BRIEFS

## Pay Raise on the Way

House and Senate conferees working on the fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Bill have approved the military pay raise portion, which includes raises of at least 5 percent.

After the remainder of the NDAA is hammered out, it must go to the floor. When approved it could take up to 45 days to implement the raises, so it is not certain that they will be in the January paychecks.

The plan would provide minimum raises of 5 percent for officers and 6 percent for enlisted members, with larger amounts targeted to midgrade and senior enlisted members, midgrade officers, and warrant officers.

## Call-Ups Headed for 60,000

The total number currently called to active duty for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 14,277; Naval Reserve, 7,586; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 30,627; Marine Corps Reserve, 612; and the Coast Guard Reserve 2,224.

This brings the total Reserve and National Guard called to active duty to 55,326 from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and individual augmentees. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it is possible for these figures to either increase or decrease.

## Central Asia Duty Possibly Tax-Free

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, says that a request for a tax-exempt status region in Central Asia is "working its way" through the approval process, and could be signed by the President soon.

If approved, enlisted and warrant officer pay in designated zones would be exempt from federal income taxes. Commissioned officers could exclude an amount equal to the highest monthly enlisted pay, plus \$150 in imminent-danger pay. Also if approved, the Secre-

tary of Defense would have authority to authorize a Savings Deposit Program, according to Pentagon officials. This would allow deposits of certain pay and allowances up to \$10,000 in accounts that would earn 10 percent interest per year.

## Tracking Deployment Days Will Continue

The Defense Department has directed the services to continue tracking deployment days even though it suspended the requirement to pay \$100 a day to members deployed more than 400 days in a rolling 730-day window.

In compliance with the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, the services first began tracking deployment days October 1, 2000, which would have made payments due to some members this month.

However, the law also allowed for modification of the requirement in the event of a declared national emergency. Thus the tracking will continue although payments are suspended.

## Hostile Fire Pay for Pentagon/WTC Troops

Hostile fire pay has been granted to service members present at the Pentagon or World Trade Center towers during the September 11 terrorist attacks.

To qualify, members must have been physically present in the buildings or surrounding grounds when the aircraft struck. Being assigned to, but not present at, the Pentagon is not grounds for receiving the subsidy, officials said.

Exceptions are individuals who responded afterward by providing emergency assistance or were exposed to the hazards of the attacks while providing emergency assistance. Examples are military firefighters, emergency services personnel and medical personnel, said a spokesman.

In addition to the monthly rate of \$150 for the month they were exposed, members who are hospitalized as a result of hostile fire may receive hostile

fire pay for up to three additional months during hospitalization.

## Tricare Upped for Some Dual Beneficiaries

Beginning October 1, Tricare beneficiaries under age 65 who are eligible for Medicare due to a disability (dual-eligible beneficiaries) and who are enrolled in Medicare Part B should have seen increases in the amounts paid on many of their claims. This change occurred because these claims procedures now use the same methodology that applies under Tricare for Life. Thus, for services payable by both Medicare and Tricare, Tricare will pay such beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs after Medicare's payment. In addition, if the individual who is participating in Medicare Part B enrolls in Tricare Prime, the Tricare enrollment fee will be waived. Beneficiaries affected by these changes must continue filing paper claim forms for Tricare reimbursement until an electronic linkage between Tricare and Medicare is established.

## Veterans' Records Backlog Nearing Fix

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Archives and Records Administration have signed a "memorandum of agreement" that is intended to reduce the backlog of more than 57,000 veterans' military records requested by VA.

NARA, the repository for records of military personnel separated from the five military services, houses the records at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. NARA's task is to provide a one-day turnaround for high priority requests and a less than five-day turnaround on routine requests. VA expects that within one year the backlog of pending requests at NPRC will be eliminated.

Currently, VA has a national inventory of more than 668,000 compensation and pension claims pending. Of these claims, 53,000 have been awaiting a decision for more than a year.



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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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