



# LISTEN UP!

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

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XIV, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2002



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## MARINES SPORT NEW LOOK

The Marines are always looking for a few good men. They may be harder to spot as the Corps outfits its members in new camouflage uniforms.

The uniforms have a number of improvements including no-snag button cuffs on the sleeves, pleats in the trousers, shoulder pockets and easy-care fabric.

But the most obvious feature is the pattern, called MARPAT -- for Marine Pattern -- one of 100 patterns considered for the state-of-the-art clothing. The Corps calls it a leap ahead in camouflage technology and has applied for three patents on it.

"On the side of a ridge line or a hill, when I looked up to locate Marines, I actually had to search for them," said **1stSgt. Andrew Yagle**, 40, of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "The uniform has been a hit with Marines."

Fox Company, attached to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, was one of several units that put the uniform through its paces over the past year.

Development of the camouflage pattern was carried out with help from scout-snipers at Quantico Marine Base, who are experts at concealment.

The uniforms debuted at Camp Lejeune this month and will be phased in, becoming the standard for the 172,000 active duty and 40,000 reserve members of the Marine Corps by 2006.

Yagle's infantry troops will be wearing the new uniform when they ship out with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit next month.

The colors of the woodland and desert patterns -- mixes of greens, tans, browns and black, depending on the environment -- are similar to those being used now. But the pattern is smaller, a collection of tiny squares like the pixels in a computer photograph, as opposed to the smooth-lined abstract shapes on current uniforms.

"It is a pattern about nothing," said **Maj. Gabe Patricio**, project officer for the new uniform. "It doesn't form anything. It disrupts the form of the body."

A gray-based pattern for urban use is being developed.

One tester, **LCpl. Ryan Hercher**, 22, of Tucson, Ariz., said he likes the new uniform so well it's all he wears. He has put away the old, large-pattern woodland camouflage that the Marine Corps has used since about 1980.

When the uniform gets dirty, Hercher pops it in the washer and dryer and -- because it's permanent press -- can wear it immediately.

Members of Fox Company kept log books of pluses and minuses as they put the new clothing to the test.

"We ripped out a few knees and blew out a few elbows," Yagle said.

Marines rejected a prototype with zip-off sleeves that they found hard to roll up.

"It didn't go very well. We felt like we were wearing a bowling shirt," Yagle said.

(See **CAMMIES**, Page 4)

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Over the last few months the Detachment has added four new members. That's outstanding, Marines! Keep bringing them in! If you haven't been to a meeting lately, you've been missing out on meeting these guys. Come out to as many meetings as you can and show your support for the Detachment and our League. As our Detachment continues to grow it depends on all of its members to keep it strong. If you don't come to the meetings and don't get involved in the activities, or running, of the Detach-

ment, now may be the time to start. With all the new members coming in, the Detachment needs your help and guidance to continue to grow. Please think about becoming more involved, maybe even being an officer. Talk to **Don Gee** and get your name on the nominating committee's list before it fills up.

With the cold weather there has not been a lot of Detachment activity. Between the writing and the publishing of this letter I will have attended the South East Division meeting on the 20th at All Divisions Detachment's home. I will

have a full report on this meeting at the February meeting. Now you have two reasons for being at the February meeting, you'll get to find out what happened at the Division meeting and you'll find out who the nominating committee has in mind to lead the Detachment for the upcoming year. I'll stop pestering you for now and sign off. See you at the February meeting!!!

Semper Fi,

*Budd Plance*

## 'Major Dad' Chairs VA's 'Annual National Salute'

WASHINGTON – Accomplished stage and television actor **Gerald McRaney** has teamed up with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to honor hospitalized veterans and promote volunteerism at VA medical centers.

McRaney, who first became widely known to his television audiences for his role as Rick Simon, private investigator, in the TV series "Simon and Simon," will chair VA's 2002 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans campaign, an annual recognition of the men and women who once served in military uniform.

This year it will be marked by community activities around the country Feb. 10-16 at VA health care facilities.

Through his role as a U.S. Marine in the TV series "Major Dad," Gerald McRaney understands the commitment made by veterans and he values their contribution to the country, "VA Secre-

tary **Anthony J. Principi** said. "We are pleased to have his talents and support as VA medical centers around the country showcase volunteer opportunities."

Approximately 100,000 volunteers contribute millions of hours a year helping hospitalized veterans with their compassion and attention to individual veterans' needs.

Serving as their spokesman during the National Salute, McRaney's duties as national chairman will extend beyond the week of February 10. He has agreed to visit hospitalized veterans throughout the year.

"I am deeply honored to be asked to serve our nation's veterans," said McRaney. "While we have troops deployed now, we must not forget the ones who gave us the freedom we already have. I hope that Americans everywhere will answer the call to volunteer their time to care for those veterans confined to hospital wards."

The national event is timed to coincide with Valentine's Day because the sentiments of caring and sharing match the salute's purpose of expressing honor and appreciation to veterans.

With the additional support of columnist **Ann Landers**, newspaper readers, classroom students, scout troops and others annually generate more than a million "Valentines for Veterans" cards and letters to local VA medical centers and nursing homes to express gratitude

for veterans' service to their country.

Community and state officials, military and veterans organizations and youth groups often join with the public during the National Salute week to visit patients in VA hospitals, nursing homes, state veterans homes and other facilities.

Members of the public are encouraged to call their local VA health care facilities to participate in activities during the 2002 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. At VA medical centers, they should ask for the voluntary service office, which coordinates the activities.



### 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.

### 2002 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 13**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**MARCH 13**  
**(DETACHMENT ELECTIONS)**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**APRIL 10**  
**(OFFICER INSTALLATION)**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**MAY 8**

# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc. of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held January 9, 2002, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Paymaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee** and **Don Parzanese Sr.**; **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year** and **Past Commandant Frank Yohe**.

One guest, **Dennis Stanislaw**, was present.

The Minutes of the December Meeting were unanimously approved.

In the absence of **Paymaster Bob Cody**, the Paymaster's Report was not presented.

**Sick Call: Paymaster Bob Cody** was reported undergoing a cardiac checkup in Chicago. The Detachment wishes him well. **Commandant Pearce's** mother-in-law passed away. The Detachment expressed its condolences to the Commandant and his wife, **Suzanne**. **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas's** wife, **Agnes's** illness has been diagnosed as incurable. The Detachment expressed its concern and support for the Haas family. **Marine Bruce Sergeant's** wife recently underwent surgery. The Detachment wished her well on her road to recovery.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Budd Pearce** reported he had received notice there were six plots available for needy Marines at Whitemarch Memorial Park. If anyone knows of a needy Marine family in need of a grave plot, contact **Commandant Pearce**.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 57 members including 19 Life members, 33 Regular members and 5 Associate members.

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr.** reminded the Detachment the tickets and monies collected for the Department's annual raffle must be turned in by the May Meeting. He has more raffle tickets, should anyone need more.

**Adjutant Gary Smith** reported he had no correspondence besides that which the Commandant had already reported.

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

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported there have been no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reported he had nothing new to report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Young Marines--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling** reported the Young Marines unit Commanding Officer is under transfer orders and his replacement is in Afghanistan. He reported he may have to assume the position temporarily.

**Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer** set Jan. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the February edition of *Listen Up!*. **Advertising Chair Bob Momorella** reminded the Detachment the current *Listen Up!* advertisements will expire on April 1. He urged the members to seek advertisers for the newsletter.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Commandant Pearce** appointed **Junior Past Commandant Don Gee** to chair the Nominating Committee and charged him to present a slate of potential officers for the 2002-2003 term at the next Detachment Meeting. The Commandant reminded the members that he was NOT a candidate for another term.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marine Mike Waldron** advised the members that **Charlie Zahm** will be performing at the VFW Post in Warminster on January 18.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13.

## DETACHMENT ELECTIONS

The election of new officers for the Detachment will be held on Wednesday, March 13. Anyone wanting to nominate a member to serve as a Detachment Officer or who would like to serve in an office himself/herself, should contact the Nominating Committee Chair at: (215) 822-6723 or e-mail: [USMCCA@aol.com](mailto:USMCCA@aol.com) before the February Meeting.

# DOD NEWS BRIEFS

## Afghan Troop Rotation Policy On Tap

The Navy and Marine Corps have announced that they will try to maintain their six-month rotation policy for troops deployed to Afghanistan and its environs. By doing so, they would rotate personnel and units in and out of theater while maintaining forces required for ongoing operations. Spokesmen for both services said they would change the policies if needed. Army and Air Force officials are studying their rotation requirements and expect to announce policies soon, service officials said.

## Veterans Benefits Raised 2.6 Percent

Veterans receiving monthly benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs can expect a 2.6 percent increase in their service-connected disability compensation or pension payment. The cost-of-living adjustment also applies to survivors of veterans who are receiving death pension or dependency and indemnity compensation. Under the new rates, veterans will receive monthly

payments ranging from \$103 to \$2,163 depending on the severity of their disability. Factors such as additional compensation for dependents and housebound veterans can also raise the payment level beyond \$2,163 for individual veterans. The cost-of-living increase also applies to VA payments to survivors of veterans who died while in service or after discharge from a service-connected condition, as well as to survivors of wartime veterans who qualify for VA pensions.

## Veteran's Act Raises Housing Benefits

The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion act has increased the guaranty on Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000. The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing up to \$240,000 without a down payment. This is up from the former guaranty of \$50,750, which allowed no-down-payment loans of up to \$203,000. The VEBE act also extends the Native American veterans housing loan program to December 31, 2005. That pro-

gram, for veterans living on reservations, has a loan ceiling of \$80,000, except in certain high-cost areas where VA has approved up to \$120,000, said spokeswoman. The VEBE also increased specialty housing grants from \$43,000 to \$48,000 for severely disabled veterans who need homes built to accommodate wheelchairs. Another grant program for housing adaptations for less seriously disabled vets had its ceiling raised from \$8,250 to \$9,250.

## Dental Premiums Climb

On Feb. 1, monthly premiums for the TRICARE Dental Program increase by some 3.5 percent. The new rate for active duty family members and members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve (Special Mobilization Category) and family members of reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days is \$7.90 for one enrollment and \$19.74 per family. Premiums for members of the IRR and their family members, as well as for family members of the Selected Reserve, will be \$19.75 for one enrollment and \$49.36 per family.

## CAMMIES

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Another reject was pocket snaps instead of buttons or Velcro. The Velcro stayed on breast pockets, and broken buttons were easier to replace in the field.

Perhaps the biggest change, aside from the new pattern, was a set of front pleats in the trousers.

"Everybody saw the pleats and said what are we, a bunch of fashion cats?" Yagle said. "But they work. You sit down and they work with you."

A result of a \$500,000, 18-month development project, the uniform -- Marines call them cammies or utilities, never fatigues or BDUs as in the Army -- also has a new sleeve pocket, built-in pockets for knee and elbow pads, an elastic cinch cord on the pants' cargo

pockets and more concealable name tags. The Marine Corps pocket emblem is part of the fabric and doesn't have to be ironed on as before.

Best of all, the uniform is a cotton-nylon blend with a permanent crease. By washing and drying it themselves, Marines can skip the cleaners and save about \$5 a week, Patricio said.

New cammies cost \$59.74 for a shirt and pants, or \$2 less than the old model. Billed caps and floppy-brimmed hats are sold separately.

Marines at Camp Lejeune, the corps' primary and largest base on the East Coast, will be able to buy the new uniform Thursday. Marines at Camp Pendleton, California, get the uniform Feb. 1. In March, the new cammies will be the only style issued to recruits as they leave basic training in California and South Carolina.

The next step for the new field uniform will be the addition of brown, rough-leather boots to replace the shiny black boots now used. A date hasn't been set for the boots' introduction.

The new camouflage design has its roots in a pattern developed in 1977 by West Point engineering psychology professor Timothy O'Neill, a retired Army colonel. O'Neill said his pattern has been used by NATO forces in Europe and by the Canadian army.

"It is based on how the eye works," said O'Neill, who helped the Marines. "The reason it has little squares is to break the pattern into small packets. The size of the pixels and clusters in the pattern is geared to match the texture of the kind of tactical backgrounds that Marines will be in."

"There's no such thing as perfect camouflage, but this gives you an edge."

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## WE WILL REMEMBER

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2002, at 7:30 p.m.**

In the Community Room at the Bucks County Courthouse  
(Entrance across from the parking lot on the Main St. side of the courthouse)

Master of Ceremonies: **Don Parzanese Jr.**, Persian Gulf War veteran and  
Junior Vice Commandant, Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League

## PROGRAM:

Playing the National Anthem

Posting the Colors by the **Young Marines Unit** & Reading of *"I AM THE FLAG"*

Welcome Address: **Bob Larrisey**, United Veterans Chairman

Introduction of the Officers of the United Veterans Council

Introduction of Guests

Opening Prayer: **Ray Freiling**, Chaplain, VVA Chapter #210

Update on Persian Gulf: **Bob Larissey**, Persian Gulf War veteran

Musical tribute to World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War

*"God Bless the USA"* and *"Wind Beneath My Wings"*: **Skip Schultz**, VVA Chapter #210

Introduction of the representatives for **PASSING THE FLAG CEREMONY**.

The Young Marines will fold the flag and read the meaning of the folds.

Introduction of **Capt. J. B. BLAKE**, USN, Commanding Officer, Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove.

Presentation of the Bucks County Veterans Memory Board by **Penny Larrisey**

Reading of *"A Soldier Died Today"* by **Skip Schultz**

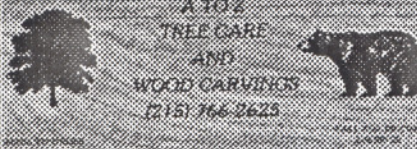
Join Hands to sing *"God Bless America."*

Closing Prayer

At the end of the program, all Persian Gulf War veterans will accompany Mr. Stonesifer  
to the Persian Gulf Memorial to place a marker for Kristopher and Afghanistan

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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.

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