



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ROBERT A. SUNDLING

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XV, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2003



**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:
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PAYMASTER:
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JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR:
ELIIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC

HAGEE BECOMES 33rd CMC

By Otto Kreisher

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – With thousands of his troops heading off for a possible war with Iraq, **Gen. Michael W. Hagee** took over as Marine Corps Commandant Jan. 13 confidently proclaiming his forces are ready for whatever lies ahead.

Hagee came to the Marine Corps' top post after commanding the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif. About 7,000 Marines from that command and a similar number from the East Coast-based 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force have left or are preparing to leave for the Persian Gulf as part of a massive build-up of U.S. combat forces.

Hagee, 58, became the 33rd commandant in a tradition-rich ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he started his career upon graduating in 1968. He went on to command an infantry platoon and a company in combat in Vietnam and later commanded a battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

Hagee assumed his new office with the ceremonial passage of the Marine Corps' battle flag from the previous Commandant, **Gen. James L. Jones**. On Jan. 17, Jones took over as commander U.S. Force Europe and as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the first Marine ever to hold NATO's top military post.

The prospect of war in the Persian Gulf gave a somber tone to the normally festive change of command ceremony.

Jones noted that, "this is a time when Marines are again, with their colleagues from the other services, marching to the sound of distant drums. We do so with the full confidence that we know who we are and what we do, and if we must fight, we will fight, and we will win."

Hagee then told the crowd that, "no one doubts that when Marines arrive they are ready to fight and we are going to win."

He read an e-mail from the wife of a Marine Private First Class who was heading off with the 1st Expeditionary Force, in which she said: "It is an honor to serve my country by supporting my husband. This is the job he loves and I will support him as long as he chooses."

(See GEN. HAGEE Page 2)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON
12 FEBRUARY 2003 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST, DOYLESTOWN, PA.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

I received an application and check for membership this week from former Marine Robert G. Scott of Doylestown. He attended our last meeting to check us out and was apparently so impressed with our military bearing that he decided to join us. Or...he just liked the pizza. No matter his reasons, I look forward to seeing Richard at our next meeting.

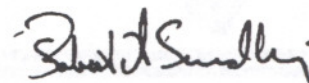
I know it was mentioned in our last newsletter and at our last meeting, but I found out about Herb Krout's passing too late to say anything in my message. We all owe a great deal to Herb, and most of us have some good stories to remember him by. I'd like to express my personal regrets to Sarah, Ray and the rest of Herb's family. We had a lot of good times together. We'll always remember Herb with love and respect as a Marine.

The Young Marines were supposed to go on a cold weather survival weekend (no tents!) on the Appalachian Trail in two weeks, but some of our Marines and

our Corpsmen are working to get the C130 squadron deployed so it's been postponed. I was so looking forward to sleeping outside with no tent in January! Yeah, right! There is a God! They are still spending a weekend on the battleship New Jersey in February. If any League members want to go, please call me right away and it may still be possible.

Pray for our troops and our President. Also, help us out and bring stuff to the February meeting so we can send it along to our troops that are deployed. Thanks.

Semper Fi,



POWs May Be Eligible for Back Pay

A number of Sailors and Marines who were held as prisoners of war (POW) during World War II (WW II) are authorized to receive promotion back pay under the provisions of the fiscal year 2001 Floyd D. Spence Defense Authorization Act. The act directs the Department of the Navy to pay back pay to Navy and Marine Corps personnel who were selected for promotion but not available to accept the promotion because of their internment.

Only Navy and Marine Corps POWs during WW II, Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible. If the service member is deceased the surviving spouse is entitled to the back pay. The amount of the back pay will be determined using the amount the member would have been paid calculated using WW II pay rates and not adjusted for inflation.

Department of the Navy will deter-

mine eligibility for back pay by researching each individual's request. This will include obtaining and reviewing the member's archived personnel and pay records.

Applications from Navy personnel should be sent to Bureau of Naval Personnel, Retired Activities Branch-PERS-62, 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055. Marine applications should be sent to Major Jeff Sokoly Headquarters, U. S. M. C., 2 Navy Annex, RFL-F7, Washington, DC 20380-1775.

Additional information regarding the program and application procedures may be obtained by writing CDR DeNicola or calling (800) 762-8567. Maj. Sokoly can be reached at (866) 472-7139. Application information and forms are available on the internet at <<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/WWIIPOW/WWIIPOW.html>>.

2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
FEBRUARY 12**

**VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 14**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEBRUARY 17**

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
FEBRUARY 22**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MARCH 12**

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.

GEN. HAGEE (From Page 1)

Looking at Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the dais, Hagee said: "Sir, that's your Marine Corps today. I look forward to working with Marines to build on the two strong foundations we have: Excellence in war fighting and taking care of one another."

In his opening remarks, Rumsfeld said: "We salute a great Commandant of the Marine Corps for a job well done and we celebrate the arrival of an exceedingly well qualified man to assume leadership of the U.S. Marine Corps."

Noting that Jones and Hagee have a combined total of more than 70 years of service, he said, "they know the grave

consequences of war."

Rumsfeld recalled that President Bush promised the nation after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, "we will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter and we will not fail.

"You, the men and women of the Marine Corps, along with your colleagues from the other services, are the ones who will deliver on that promise," he said.

The Marines announced that Hagee has shown his support for the trouble MV-22 Osprey program by taking a flight last week in the tilt-rotor aircraft at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, where it is going through an intensive test program.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 8, 2003, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 18 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee** and **Frank Yohe**; **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce**. Guest and potential member **Rick Scott** was also in attendance.

The **Minutes** of the December Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Sick Call: Marine Ray Krout is recuperating from knee surgery.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bob Sundling reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" letter from Kutz School for the Detachment's participation in its Veterans Day Program. The Detachment also received correspondence from the Department of Pennsylvania about the Mid-Atlantic Reunion in Baltimore, MD; the Chapel of Four Chaplains Award Banquet; and a new calendar fund-raising program initiated by the Department. He also reminded the Detachment members that his wife, **Peggy**, was still sending packages to our troops overseas. He enjoined the members to bring non-perishable "goodies" to the next meeting for inclusion in the "We Care" packages.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 59 members including 37 Regular Members, 15 Life Members and 4 Associate Members. There are six Delinquent Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported he is looking for input about this year's Birthday Ball. He distributed Department raffle tickets and reminded the members the Detachment receives 40 percent of gross ticket sales.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he 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 Dennis Stanislav reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported the detachment was well-represented at Herb Krout's memorial service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations--The Public relations Officer set January 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the February issue of *LISTEN UP!*

Advertising--**Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported he had received a new business card ad for the newsletter and reminded the members the current list of advertisers will expire with the March issue. Advertising renewals and new ads will begin in the April issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Past Commandant Pearce motioned that the Detachment contribute \$50.00 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in memory of **Herb Krout**. The motion passed unanimously.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Mess Sergeant Will Haas volunteered to split the Detachment Roster with Chaplain Pearce for notifying Detachment members out funerals, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on February 12, 2003.

NCOs Choose Marine Corps Reforms

by Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford

QUANTICO, VA-- The Corps' best noncommissioned officers gathered at Quantico recently and decided on 18 ways to improve the Corps.

Units from around the world chose their best Marines to decide on these issues. Many won their unit's noncommissioned officer of the year or quarter boards before their selection to this Noncommissioned Officer Symposium.

Prior to their arrival, the NCOs gathered more than 90 topics of concern at their units and submitted them to the office of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

At the start of the symposium, the Marines were given classes on major topics affecting the Corps.

"We had the subject matter experts come down to give briefs on the topics submitted," said **SSgt. Darby Carter**, executive assistant to the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. The purpose of the briefs, said Carter, was to inform the Marines on the topics they would discuss.

"The classes gave me a broader view of the Marine Corps," said **Sgt. Russ Gordon**. "There is a lot of opportunity out there. If you look at all the benefits, there is no other company out there that will give you as much as the Corps gives you."

The final classes the Marines were given were not to impart knowledge on them, but to help them think of imaginative and creative ways to help solve the issues.

"The process is designed to bring them up a level," said **Debbie Dietrich**, head, Organizational Development Section, Headquarters Marine Corps. "They come here with agenda items from fellow Marines and their commands. When the NCOs give their out brief, they are talking on the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps level. They should see things at a higher level, and must be open to all perspectives."

After the classes and the team building exercises, the Marines were split into four groups, each with their own set of recommendations, with assistance from

the Organizational Development Section to guide them.

"This is their work, their time to shine," said Dietrich. "For some, it will be the high point in their career to brief the CMC and the sergeant major. We just support them."

After each group was completed, **Gen. James L. Jones**, (then) Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited the symposium to praise the Marines.

"The reason you are here is not for you to hear from me, but for me to hear from you," he said. "You are here representing a very important part of the Corps. You are representing your NCOs, your peers and your subordinate Marines. You will know that when you are speaking, you represent not only NCOs, but the lance corporals, privates first class and privates. It doesn't end here with the symposium."

Jones also informed the Marines that Headquarters Marine Corps would keep in touch with those who attended, and over the next year they may be contacted for their point of view on general subjects that affect the Corps.

When the final list was completed, the NCOs briefed their findings to **SgtMaj. Alford L. McMichael**, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

"During the group discussion, there were some wild hair ideas that came up, and everyone had a different idea," said **Sgt. Michael Almendarez**, Quantico Food Service Branch. "But at the conclusion, we all came together."

Many of the questions were removed from the list because of propriety, such as those that need to be addressed at the unit level. Others were combined, modified and presented to McMichael during an out brief earlier at Liversedge Hall.

"I was very impressed with the out brief," said McMichael. "I thought their recommendations were within our vision. Their desire for change is for the better, not just a selfish goal."

McMichael further added that although some of the topics were already at the attention of Headquarters, it was good to hear them again.

"It shows that the Corps is still looking at these things that need to be changed

and implemented," he said.

After the close of the symposium, McMichael presented the concerns to Jones, who will make the final decision on each topic. Although the official message will be posted this year, the topics chosen by the NCO's are listed below as presented.

Body Fat Measurement Method

Discussion: Current method of body fat measurement (taping) is inaccurate. Current measuring method does not take into consideration an individual's frame size (i.e., bone structure). Using a caliper would take into consideration total body fat composition.

Recommendation: The Marine Corps should employ the caliper and do away with the taping method.

Height Standards

Discussion: The current Marine Corps Orders (MCO 6100.10B w/ch 1-4 and MCO 1610.7E) do not offer weight guidance for all Marines.

Recommendation: Implement weight guidance for Marines that are shorter/taller than the reference states.

Marine Rifle Qualifications

Discussion: All Marines should be afforded the opportunity to sustain and improve marksmanship training.

Recommendation: Require all Marines to qualify on the range to the extent of using other services' facilities (non-accommodating special duties exempt), i.e. MSG duty or MARFOREUR.

Martial Arts/Swim Qualification

Discussion: Associate programs with promotion, To ensuring sustainment of those programs

Recommendation: Include in IRAM and PES Manual more guidance on the evaluation of MCMAP/swim qualification as it pertains to assigning proficiency marks and Fitness Reports.

College loan repayment as enlistment incentive for the Marine Corps

Reference: Army Regulation 621-202; www.af.mil; and www.navy.mil

Discussion: As a part of their enlistment incentives, all other branches of the service offer to repay college loans acquired prior to entering the service. Repayment depends on the length of the contract

signed, and bonuses are still an additional option. This would help the Marine Corps enlist high quality individuals, as well as benefit our Recruiting teams. There are many people that have incurred a large debt due to college loans. This is beneficial to the individual as well as an excellent enlistment incentive.

Recommendation: Match or better the offers of other services to repay college loans as an enlistment incentive.

Base housing application process for inbound/incoming Marines

Discussion: Current base housing procedures require inbound Marines to physically report to apply for housing upon checking in. Marines often get on a six-month - two year waiting list.

Recommendation: Implement a Marine Corps system to allow Marines, (who desire) who are in receipt of orders to apply for housing (on-line/FAX) prior to reporting. Marines would be placed on a waiting list prior to arrival. This program would allow an easier transition. This process would not guarantee the Marine a house but offer the opportunity of housing prior to arrival and help in an effective coordination of transition.

Expansion of Career Degree Program

Discussion: Due to deployment and operational commitments it is difficult for Marines to attain a degree in a timely manner. This could serve as an incentive, but not guaranteed due to the screening process.

Recommendation: Expand SNCO degree program to include NCOs that are career Marines.

Ability to purchase running shoes on UCDPP

Discussion: Not all uniform shops carry running shoes. Those that do carry shoes have a limited variety.

Recommendation: Have all uniform shops carry running shoes so they can be purchased on UCDPP. Authorize purchase of any style or brand of running shoe.

Child-care Funding

Discussion: Insufficient child care fa-

cilities to accommodate family members. Insufficient funding. Long waiting lists. Marines have to rely on local child-care facilities

Recommendation: Increase funding to build bigger and more consistent Child Care facilities to adequately support military members requiring this service.

Special Duty Assignment

Discussion: MC Order P1326.6D, Chapter 1, paragraph 1000, 1.a. currently refers to MSG and Security Forces as a side note rather than including these duties in the heart of the statement along with DI and Recruiter. Chapter 1000, 1.e. currently excludes Marine Security Forces

Recommendation: Revise MCO P1326.6D, Para 1000, 1.a. Promotion **Prospects.** Delete the final sentence of the of the statement in the 'Briefing Instructions to the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Selection Boards.' Incorporate the two Special Duties referred to in that sentence into the heart of the statement. Revise MCO P1326.6D, Para 1000, 1.e. Ribbons Entitle Marine Security Forces "B" billet holders to wear a ribbon that represents their respective special duty assignment

Government Visa surcharge

Discussion: Marines are currently charged \$10 surcharge to make a payment by phone. Some situations make it impossible for Marines to pay any other way. Unfair to have individual Marine pay the charge for a card they are required to use.

Recommendation: Get rid of the surcharge "penalty" either by eliminating it or by reimbursement.

Female Covers

Discussion: Costs to replace present Dress & Service covers is too much. Covers are not interchangeable - have to replace the entire cover. Covers have to be replaced often.

Recommendation: Change the material portion vice replacing the whole cover Change the design of the female dress covers so that they are easier to maintain

Uniforms

Discussion: Uniforms become unserviceable for various reasons; Field training, Day-to-day wear and tear. Current uniform allowances don't cover upkeep costs.

Recommendation: Develop a system that would allow a Marine to have a uniform item evaluated for replacement. Develop a one-for-one exchange system, with tracking, for all Marines.

Name Tags

Discussion: Having name tags make you more recognizable. Others can see our name and it is easier to remember.

Recommendation: Reinstate the nametags on the Charlies, Bravos and Deltas, for the uniform of the day.

Montgomery GI Bill

Discussion: Currently offered only during first week of recruit training. High stress environments are not conducive to making career decisions.

Recommendation: Offer MGIB twice, during recruiting process and during initial check-in to first permanent duty station

Standardizing Pro/Con Worksheet

Discussion: Proficiency and Conduct marks are inflated

Recommendation: Implement a standard pro and con worksheet that takes into consideration all aspect of Marine Corps training. Incorporate into MCO P1070.12 (IRAM)

TMO weight not proportionate to need

Discussion: A nine-year sergeant with three family members rates less TMO weight than a second lieutenant with one family member.

Recommendation: Adjust TMO weight to rely less on rank and more on time in service and number of family members.

Promotions for IRR Marines who have been activated

Discussion: No separate table for activated Marines. No system in place to show select grade. Activated Marines are promoted under SMCR table. Has been an issue since Desert Storm. Identified in September, but no MARAD-MIN yet.

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Past Commandant Don Parazese Sr. for any additional information.

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New 'Medal of Honor' Game Released for Play Station 2

Many - if not most - video games are grounded in fantasy, usually involving monsters, aliens, robots or mythological creatures.

But Electronic Arts' popular "Medal of Honor" games aim to re-create the life of an American soldier in Europe during World War II, and the series does so with respectful accuracy. In fact retired **Capt. Dale Dye** of the U.S. Marine Corps, the pre-eminent military advisor to Hollywood, also acts as a historical advisor to the "Medal of Honor" series.

The latest chapter in the franchise - "Medal of Honor Frontline" for Sony's PlayStation 2 - is a sobering yet entertaining action title for players willing to enlist in battle.

The game begins with a pitch-black screen, except for this chilling poem:

And when he gets to Heaven
To Saint Peter he will tell:
One more soldier reporting, Sir -
I've served my time in Hell.

The screen then fades to a Higgins boat packed with American soldiers slowly pulling up to Omaha Beach at Normandy. The date is June 28, 1944. D-Day.

With a scene not unlike the beginning of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," the player, who assumes the role of Lt. Jimmy Patterson, finds himself dodging bullets and bombs while climbing up the beach to enter a German compound. Fellow soldiers cry for help, planes roar overhead and explosions blast sand to obstruct the view.

This interactive introduction to the game is gripping, and while not quite as chaotic as other segments of this 15-hour adventure, it sets the tone for the rest of the game.

Other missions such as those that take place in towns, across bridges and on trains and submarines, require a player to be skilled with more than 20 authentic weapons, work cooperatively with a squad of soldiers and use cunning stealth.

One memorable scenario in Holland requires the player to acquire civilian clothing to blend in behind enemy lines.

"Medal of Honor Frontline" is played from a first-person, 3-D perspective so that all the action takes place through the "eyes" of the player. No doubt this viewpoint adds to the game's incredible immersion factor. As do the graphics, which are eerily convincing - even if they aren't quite as sophisticated as those in other PS2 titles.

Even more impressive, however, is the orchestral score by the award-winning composer **Michael Giacchino**. The game includes more than 70 minutes of original music - and the score is now being sold separately on CD. The game also features incredible sound effects and competent voice-acting.

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Knowledge and experience acquired while serving in the Marine Corps and the Central Intelligence Agency helped Detachment member Ron Wootters write this fictional novel.

HELP WANTED

The First Marine Division Association is searching for a qualified candidate to be appointed Editor-in-Charge of Publications.

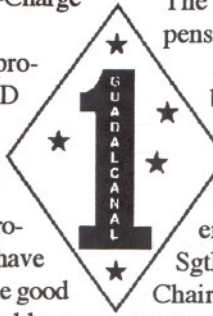
Duties include editing and producing the bi-monthly OLD BREED NEWS and the Annual Reunion Journal for the organization.

Applicants must be highly proficient in desktop publishing, have excellent journalistic skills, have good photographic skills, and be able to devote sufficient time and energy to

the position to produce publications by deadlines and in a workmanlike manner. The position offers a modest compensation and a two-year contract.

Business expenses are reimbursed.

Applicants should submit their resumes, three business references and two personal references, and any questions to: SgtMaj. Bill Krueger, USMC (Ret); Chairman, Search Committee; 7622 Highland St.; Springfield, VA 22150-3931; Ph: (703) 451-3844.



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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**)
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