



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XII, Number 1

JANUARY 2000



**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

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:
WILLIAM R. MILLER

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
PAUL CAPRIO

ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BOB MOMORELLA

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

MESS SERGEANT:
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER:
TRACY BROCKMAN

C-A-R APPROVED BACK TO WWII

The time frame for which an eligible Marine Corps or Navy veteran may be awarded the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) has been extended.

The CAR is the Marine Corps-Navy equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantryman's Badge which was created in 1943 and awarded to soldiers retroactively to Dec. 7, 1941.

House Resolution 552, sponsored by Representative Michael B. McNulty of New York, included a provision (Section 564) in the Annual Defense Authorization Bill. The President signed that bill into law on Oct. 5.



Combat Action Ribbon

Public Law 106-65 "authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to award the Combat Action Ribbon to a member of the Marine Corps or Navy for participation in ground or surface combat during any period after Dec. 6, 1941, and before Mar. 1, 1961, if the Secretary determines the member has not been previously recognized for such participation."

The CAR had been awarded to eligible Marine Corps and Navy personnel who were actively engaged in combat in the Vietnam War and since. The ribbon was created Feb. 17, 1969, and awarded retro-

actively to Mar. 1, 1961. This prevented a large number of World War II and Korea veterans from receiving special recognition.

To obtain a CAR, fill out SF-180 (Request Pertaining to Military Records) and send it along with a copy of your discharge to: Bureau of Naval Personnel, Liaison Office, Room 5409, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Korean War Medal Approved by Pentagon

The Pentagon has given its approval for U.S. veterans to wear the Korean War Medal created and issued by the Republic of Korea in 1951 for United Nations forces serving in South Korea.

Criteria for the medal's eligibility has not been published yet, but according to informed sources requirements should be similar to the U.S.-issued Korean Service Medal.

The big question is who will pay for producing the medal.

"There are three options," says the unnamed source. "The U.S. government could pay for it, the South Korean government could pay for it, or the cost could fall on the 1.5 million Korea vets still alive. You have to remember that Congress rejected a Cold War medal because of the expense."

**THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 12 JANUARY 2000
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN**

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season! Now that all the excitement of Christmas is behind us and the New Year has begun, it's time to start thinking about spring. What is the first thing you think of when you think of spring?

I think of the Detachment's upcoming Parking Lot fund-raiser. Well, not really but doesn't it sound "gung ho?" Seriously, please remember to set aside the time to help out on this project. It will be in April and the exact dates will be announced at the meetings and will be printed in "Listen Up!"

I don't have to tell you this is our BIG money maker for the year--and we need your help to make it work. That's all about that for now. Keeping reading our newsletter for more info.

The Detachment contributed to the "Toys-for-Tots" program through MAG-49 this year. The Sergeant Major was on hand at the December Meeting to collect the toys and present us a very nice Certificate of Appreciation. My thanks to all the members who made it to the meeting and brought toys. The Meeting had the smallest turnout of any meeting I can remember, but it was downstairs and only a few weeks before Christmas. I am sure the members were just incredibly busy and they will turn out in force for the January Meeting.

Speaking of the new year, don't forget that in a couple of months we have elections for Detachment officers. If



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.

you haven't already volunteered to run for an office, get your name in now! You don't want to be caught in the last minute rush do you? This is a great way to show your appreciation to the League and to your fellow Detachment members. Not everyone wants to be an officer, but there are other appointed jobs you might be interested in. Come to the Meetings and talk to some of the officers about the jobs they do. You might find you really would like to try out this year. I have been Commandant for six of the last seven years and I am sure there is someone just dying to give it a try for a change. Seriously, the Detachment needs people to do the jobs and some new blood never hurts., Think it over and get in touch with the Nominating Commit-

tee. It will be forming in February and will be chaired by **Junior Past Commandant Don Gee**.

I'll see you at the Meeting. Let me know if you have any ideas for some fun things we can do as a Detachment his year. I'd like to hear if anyone would be interested in a family outing of some kind. We do the usual things like fundraisers and highway cleanups. I think it would be nice to do something that our families can be more a part of. Let me know ... see you at the January Meeting.

Semper Fi,

Budd France

Spielberg Brings Marines to N-B-C

The Few. The proud. The Oscar-winning. Does **Steven Spielberg** have what it takes to join the Marines? Maybe, maybe not.

Does the director of "Saving Private Ryan" have what it takes to executive produce a TV series about Uncle Sam's elite warriors? Indubitably so. Spielberg will soon team up with **Tom Cruise** and **Matt Damon** for the futuristic thriller "Minority Report," but apparently there's still room in his schedule to oversee the creation of "Semper Fi" for DreamWorks' TV division.

Variety says NBC has committed to producing at least 13 episodes of the new series, which could air as soon as next fall. **Jim Uhls**, who penned the screenplay for the forthcoming **Brad Pitt** film "Fight Club," has scripted a pilot for "Semper Fi" and will supervise the writing of future episodes.

The present-day series will reportedly follow a regiment of young Marines from the time of their enlistment through training and then into the field as they carry out various missions in far-flung corners of the globe.

Retired Marine **Captain Dale Dye**, who served as a special consultant on "Saving Private Ryan" and military

technical advisor on the Oscar-winning "Platoon," will join the series as producer to help ensure the authenticity of its depiction of life in the Corps.

It's been widely rumored that Spielberg will direct "Semper Fi's" pilot, but a DreamWorks spokesman says the busy filmmaker has not yet made a firm commitment to do so. It would mark the first time the multiple Oscar winner has directed for television since he helmed episodes of "Amazing Stories" in 1986.

Spielberg's burgeoning interest in the battlefield experience will also find an outlet in HBO's "Band of Brothers," a miniseries he's reportedly planning to co-produce with **Tom Hanks**. That show will be based on *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne, from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle Nest*, best-selling historian Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction account of the exploits of a crack World War II Army infantry company.

Visit our
Website
at

[http://www.geocities.com/
Pentagon/Barracks/6266/](http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Barracks/6266/)

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held December 8, 1999, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 12 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant, the Paymaster, the Quartermaster, and the Webmaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Director of Public Relations** and **Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr.**, **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**, and **Marine of the Year Wil Haas**. Guests included **MAG-49 Sergeant Major and Mrs. Horvath**.

The Minutes of the November Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The Paymaster's Report was deferred until the January Meeting due to the absence of **Paymaster Bob Cody**.

Commandant Budd Pearce thanked the members for donating toys to the "Toys-for-Tots" program.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 49 members including 13 Life Members, 32 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. There are four members delinquent.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported the Detachment had received no recent requests for our Color Guard.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, set December 20 as the deadline for the January issue of "*Listen Up!*"

New Business

Sergeant Major Horvath presented a Certificate of Appreciation from MAG-49 to **Commandant Pearce** for the Detachment's participation in this year's "Toys-for-Tots" program.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to donate \$100 to the "Give A Christmas" fund of "*The Intelligencer*" newspaper.

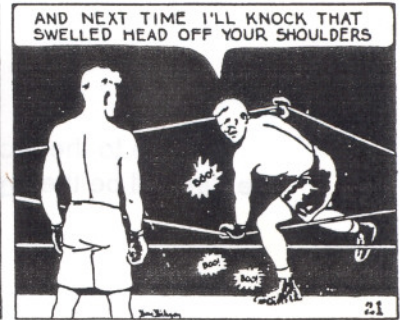
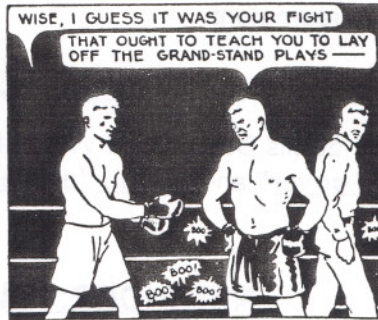
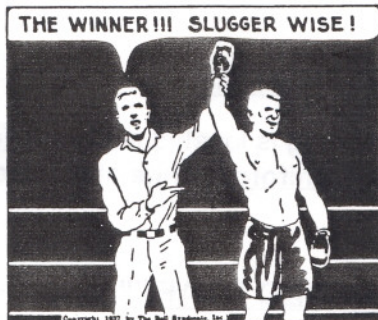
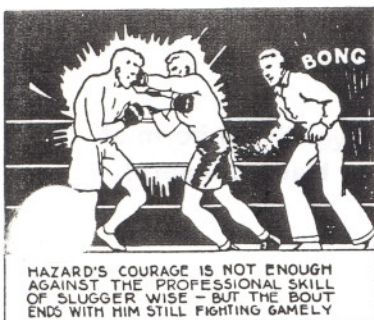
Announcements

Marine Jim Marckstein reminded the members that individual memberships in the Detachment's Group Membership at Sam's Club will expire on Dec. 31. He advised those members who want to continue in the plan to pay their membership fee at Sam's Club in Willow Grove. Individual memberships are available under the "Marine Corps League" group membership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, January 12, 2000, at 7:30 p.m.

SERGEANT STONY GRAIG—Lost Decision

By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
WINTER MEETING
GRANTVILLE, PA

A G E N D A

FRIDAY - 07 JANUARY 2000

1700 Dept. Convention Committee Meeting
2000 Pack of PA - M.O.D.D. Growl

SATURDAY - 08 JANUARY 2000

0800 - 0900 Executive Session (Elected Staff only)
Audit Committee

0900 - 1030 "Commandant's Council"

1100 - 1200 Dept. of PA Staff and League meeting convenes
Roll call of Officers & Detachments
Recognition of National Officers/PDC's/Guests
Report of any member/member's family sick or in distress
Approval of Convention and Staff meeting minutes
Reports of Dept. **ELECTED** Staff

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Central Division Vice Commandant | 8- Adjutant |
| 2- Southeast Division Vice Commandant | 9- Paymaster |
| 3- Southwest Division Vice Commandant | 10- Judge Advocate |
| 4- Northeast Division Vice Commandant | 11- Jr. Vice Commandant |
| 5- Northwest Division Vice Commandant | 12- Sr. Vice Commandant |
| 6- Jr. Past Commandant | 13- Commandant |
| 7- Chaplain | |

1200 - 1300 Recess for lunch

1300 - Dept. Staff and League meeting reconvenes
Reports of Dept. **APPOINTED** Staff
Report of National Officers
Commandant's Council report
Subsidiary Organization Reports (MODD, MCLA, Young Marines)
Unfinished Business
New Business
Good of the League
Announcements
Adjournment

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

Due to the fact that this Department Winter Meeting is located in the public eye - the **uniform of the day** will be the "red cover" and M.C.L. "undress" uniform (white shirt/blue or black trousers).

REMINDER: "ELECTED STAFF"

Pictures will be taken at this meeting for the Dept. Convention Book. Please be prepared!!

ROYAL MARINES BAN ON WOMEN UPHOLD BY COURT

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters)--The European Union's highest court late last month ruled that Britain can continue to ban women from the Royal Marines, one of the country's elite military regiments.

The Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice said Angela Sirdar, a soldier for 16 years, did not have the right to transfer into the Marines as a cook because each member of that service must be ready at a moment's notice for combat duty.

"The Court of Justice ruled that the Royal Marines, as special combat units pursuing activities for which sex is a determining factor, are entitled to exclude women," the court said in a statement.

Sirdar joined the British Army in 1983 at age 17, and served as a cook in a commando regiment of the Royal Artillery from 1990.

In 1994, after being told her job would be eliminated as part of cost-cutting measures, she asked for a transfer to the Marines.

Sirdar was initially accepted in the Marines as a cook, conditional on passing a commando training course. But once the "responsible authorities" found out Sirdar was a woman and "realized the offer had been made to her in error" the offer was revoked, the court said.

Sirdar sued the Marines for sex dis-

crimination at the Industrial Tribunal in England. The British court referred the issue to the European Court of Justice.

The EU court said the Marines were fundamentally different from other British military units and keeping women out was necessary and appropriate.

While women in Britain are still barred from serving in frontline infantry units like the Royal Marines, support units

like Engineers and Gunners are now open to both sexes.

A woman was recently accepted into Britain's grueling All-Arms Commando Course, conducted by Royal Marine instructors. Penny Rushton, a member of the 29 Regiment of the Royal Artillery--known as the Commando Gunners--will make British military history if she passes the eight-week course.

REBEL SOLDIER BURIED AT LAST

The remains of an unknown Confederate soldier found in May in a Hanover County backyard in Virginia, were buried Oct. 12 in a cemetery after a Civil War-style funeral.

The soldier, believed to be a member of the 6th North Carolina Infantry, was killed during the Battle of Gaines Mill in June 1862, according to experts.

The military funeral was held at Oakwood Cemetery, where more than 17,000 Confederate soldiers are buried. About 400 people attended the funeral which included a horse-drawn hearse, a Confederate honor guard, the singing of "Dixie," prayers, tributes, and the firing

of rifles and cannons in a farewell salute.

Volunteers who exhumed the body found the soldier's skull, jaw and numerous vertebrae, as well as parts of his arms and legs even though the body was buried just a foot and a half below ground. They also discovered several buttons, a piece of his belt, and a musket tool.

And in his torso, they believe they found the shot that killed or severely wounded him--a .58-caliber rifle musket ball. Dr. Marcella Fierro, the state medical examiner who examined the soldier's remains, said he was 23 to 25 years old, of average height, strongly built, and chewed tobacco.

Researchers Studying USS Arizona Corrosion

A team of University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers has temporary custody of a chunk of the battleship Arizona that sank in the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

They want to find out how badly the battleship is corroded and what can be done to save it from crumbling into a heap on the ocean floor.

The Arizona sank after a 1,760-pound Japanese bomb slammed through its decks and ignited its forward ammunition magazine.

It sank in less than nine minutes, tak-

ing 1,177 sailors and Marines with it to a watery grave.

"It's a national historic landmark. It's a war memorial. It's right up there with things like the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC," said William Weins, an associate professor at the university's mechanical engineering department.

There is no immediate danger of the Arizona falling apart, he said. "The National Park Service would like to approach it as a long-term study to avoid potential problems," Weins said.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

PAST DUE

BURCH, Gregory-April 1999
COLE, William S.-June 1999
HOTH, Edward W.-December 1999
PREISS, Garry O.-June 1999
STARK, Raymond-November 1999
ZELENEVICH, N.-October 1999

JANUARY

R. Bruce SERGEANT
Charles L. WURST

PRESIDENTIAL GREETINGS AVAILABLE

Anniversary and birthday cards from the President go to couples celebrating a 50th anniversary or higher and to individuals 80 or older.

Write at least six weeks ahead of time to the White House Greetings Office, Room 39, Washington, DC 20502. Fax your request to (202) 395-1232. Or e-mail to president@whitehouse.gov.

Be sure to give the name and address of the recipient and date of the event.

PI's 'BOOT' Was Christmas Present to WWII 'Boots'



THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



Let's Be Damed Sure That No Boy's Ghost Will Ever Say,
"If Your Training Program Had Only Done Its Job..."

Vol. I--No. 1

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., DECEMBER 25, 1943

Special Christmas Issue

(This story was written by one of the founders of the Parris Island *Boot*, Marine Corps League member Robert B. Van Atta, 619 Longview St., Greensburg, PA 15601, from recollections and copies of the early issues of the weekly post newspaper.)

The Parris Island *BOOT* made its debut as a Marine Corps weekly post newspaper on Dec. 25, 1943, to fill an obvious information void as World War II recruits swarmed in record numbers for basic training at the historic South Carolina base.

Other than a brief effort at a publication during World War I, Parris Island's swollen Recruit Depot and its post troops and training personnel had no direct source for news. A few of the staff elements had mimeographed newsletters for their own personnel. Otherwise, occasional copies of *The QUANTICO SENTRY* and *LEATHERNECK* Magazine and civilian newspapers from Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA, were the only sources of news for Marines in the days of few radios and before television.

This void became the object of increasing concern and discussion during the summer of 1943, and exploratory action was initiated that fall by the three-man base Public Relations Office (PRO), augmented by a former weekly newspaper editor whose primary duty assignment was with Personnel Classification.

This quartet--Capt. Tim J. Sanders, PFC Don H. Petit, PFC William V. A. Parker, and Cpl. Robert B. Van Atta (of Classification)--visited nearby newspaper plants and found that the daily *RECORD* in Columbia, SC, could handle the printing of the proposed weekly base newspaper.

While still maintaining the regular functions of the PRO and performing other military duties, the three enlisted men utilized their newspaper backgrounds in developing a format, finding newsmen, Marines there who

would contribute other publication skills, and arranging contacts at each recruit training battalion to provide news of unit activities.

The first issue materialized on what was to be the regular Saturday publication date, which happened to be Christmas Day in 1943. Its masthead showed Capt. Sanders as Officer-in-Charge, PFC Parker as Editor, and PFC Petit and Cpl. Van Atta as Associate Editors. Each of the three Editors performed a variety of functions.

Parker dealt with many of the contacts, business arrangements, promotion and circulation aspects. Petit did much of the layout and supervised the production and printing. Van Atta edited a number of departments, including sports and recruit depot news.

The paper was an instant success, due in large part to the information need for which it was the answer. Although Parker, Petit and Van Atta were able to spend a sizable part of their normal working hours on it, evenings were the busiest time for the volunteer staffers. The masthead notice that office hours were from 7 a.m. until midnight was literally true as a matter of practical necessity.

Significant contributions to the success came from professional news people in other assignments at PI. For the earliest issues, they included PFCs Martin King, Walter Conway, Victor Kalman, Joseph Dube, and Frank Matthews. For example, Frank Matthews, a government reporter for the Pittsburgh *POST-GAZETTE* in civilian life, was a rifle range coach who reported news from the range.

Artistic talent was also available on the same basis, initially including PFCs Floyd Snoderly and Francis Matera as the creator of a regular and popular comic strip, "Dollman."

Career Marine officer Major A. J. Burks and PFC Henry G. Felsen, both with backgrounds as authors, made fiction and feature contributions. The PRO photographers sandwiched local photos to supplement those from HQMC and elsewhere.

Since PRO space in the base headquarters administration building was quite small, the original newspaper office was established in a small house nearby on the edge of the post residential section in which the PRO photography darkroom and laboratory facilities were located.

When the publication arrived at Parris Island from the printer, the Editors became paperboys or whatever was needed to carry out the circulation function.

The front page of the first issue provided an opportunity for the Parris Island Commanding General, Major General Emile P. Moses, a retired officer recalled for World War II service, to extend a welcome to the 16-page tabloid newspaper and Christmas greetings to all hands.

The advent of the Corps' 18th Commandant was the top story in that first issue of *BOOT*. An early issue told of the tiny and remote Coast Guard detachment on nearby Hilton Head Island, whose only contact with civilization was a weekly mail and supply boat which for one trip carried a *BOOT* reporter.

Major departments in early issues featured Marines in action around the world, a comic strip of true Marine stories, recruit depot personnel and personal items under the title of "Scuttlebutt," and the normal and customary newspaper features and departments.

Some early photographs were supplied by PFC Lou Lowery, spending some time at Parris Island on a *LEATHERNECK* assignment. A recent edition to the magazine staff from a Pittsburgh newspaper, Lowery would become quite well known for his Iwo Jima photos (he took the first Iwo Jima flag-raising photo) and his subsequent career with the magazine.

Turnover over personnel was frequent in those early days due to transfers, duty changes, and other military exigencies. But the pioneers who helped create the Parris Island *BOOT* had earned their niche in history.

Department Launches 'Printer Cartridge' Fund-Raiser

What do you do with your old printer cartridge?

Some people send them back to the company to be recycled; some just throw them in the trash.

The Department of Pennsylvania has initiated a "Cartridge Recovery Program" which will bring additional funds to either the Detachment or the Department treasuries.

According to **Department Junior Vice Commandant John Moyses**, that old printer cartridge could net the De-

tachment \$3.00.

"At present," says Moyses, the only cartridges being accepted are HP 51626A, 51625A, 51645A, and 51629A; and Canon cartridges BC-02 and BC-20."

The recovery center is in the process of having new, postage-free, plastic envelopes printed and will be sending a supply of them to the Department in the very near future.

"Each Detachment will be sent one of the envelopes when we receive them,"

says Moyses. "All the Detachment has to do is fill in the return address and place the cartridge in the envelope, seal it and drop it in the mailbox."

Once the cartridge is received at the recovery center, the Detachment is sent a check for \$3.00.

"Any Detachment that does not want to participate in the program can send the cartridges, via the Division Vice Commandants, to the Department Staff Meetings," concludes Junior Vice Commandant Moyses.

12th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March Set for April at White Sands, NM

by **Douglas J. Gillert**

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--Those who've trod the rugged, unforgiving terrain of White Sands Missile Range, NM, know the annual Bataan Memorial Death March might not kill you, but it will severely test your mettle. Those who haven't tried it will get the chance on Apr. 16, 2000.

In its 12th year, the annual event memorializes the thousands of American and Filipino soldiers forced by their Japanese captors in April 1942 to march six days through the sweltering Philippine jungle. Planners expect some 3,000 service members and civilians to participate in 2000.

"The Bataan memorial march is one way we can make sure the history of the U.S. military doesn't fade into the background," said **Army Captain Paul Zeps**, project officer. "It is a unique tribute to a group of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Zeps said people who want to participate in the 2000 march should begin now.

"The march is just about as challenging as they come, especially in today's realm of extreme sports," Zeps said. "You have to be in shape and train before attempting to march. It's particularly important if you're not acclimated to New Mexico's high desert environment."

The 26.2-mile (1.2 miles longer than last year) course crosses hills, winds around a mountain, and twists and turns along sandy desert trails and washes at

altitudes ranging from 4,100 feet to 5,300 feet.

Active and reserve component military members, ROTC, Junior ROTC, and retirees can participate as teams or individuals in light or heavy divisions. Service members marching in any military category must wear full field gear, and civilians in any category should wear appropriate attire for a road march through desert terrain.

All marchers entered in heavy division categories must also carry a 35-pound rucksack.

Teams can consist of five to seven members, and at least five must cross the finish line together.

Team categories are male light, male military light, male military heavy, female light, female military light, female military heavy, coed light, coed military light, coed military heavy, National Guard light, National Guard

heavy, ROTC light, ROTC heavy, and JROTC light.

Individual categories are male military light, male military over age 40 light, male light, male over 40 light, male military heavy, female military light, female military over 40 light, female light, female over 40 light, female military heavy, and female heavy.

Entry fees submitted by April 1, 2000, are \$110 for teams and \$25 for individuals. After April 1, the fees are \$150 and \$35, respectively. Registered participants will receive a tee-shirt, certificate, pre-march continental breakfast, and a post-march meal.

Online applications are available at the White Sands Missile Range website or in hard copy by calling (505) 678-3374. For more information, consult the website, call the range public affairs office at (505) 678-1134, or send e-mail to bataan@wsmr.army.mil.

V-A Trying To Reduce Delays, Waiting Time

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it will tackle what many consider to be the bane of the healthcare industry--waiting times and delays. VA has contracted with the Boston-based Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to guide the effort.

"Reducing delays is critical. It can improve medical outcomes and positively effect patient satisfaction, costs and quality of life," said **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West Jr.** "Our goal is to reduce overall delays and waits systemwide by 50 percent or more within the next six to eight months."

Teams from approximately 130 VA Medical Centers and Outpatient Clinics will work together until March 2000 to learn and implement proven techniques. The teams will focus on patient flow, access and efficiency at Outpatient Clinics.

"More timely service and less complex systems can be achieved by re-designing our systems of care," said **Acting Under Secretary for Health Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite**. "Our ultimate goal in this initiative is to enhance quality of care and improve patient satisfaction."

Vietnam Veterans 'Wall' Heals Emotional Wounds

by Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--Creators of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall here hoped a wall of names would help survivors heal emotionally and be America's tangible recognition of the sacrifices made by those who served.

The concept worked, said **Jan Scruggs**, one of the principal leaders in getting the memorial built.

More than 4.7 million people from around the world walked the memorial grounds last year, making it the most visited of all the monuments in Washington.

Scruggs said many Vietnam veterans call the "Healing Wall" their welcome home.

"It's sort of a societal symbol by the country that service was recognized and appreciated," he said. "That's the important thing."

Now, 17 years after its dedication, the memorial is fast becoming an educational device for the younger generation,

he said.

"It touches so many people," he said, especially those who are too young to have gone to Vietnam and too young to know anything about the war.

The memorial was dedicated on Nov. 13, 1983, and initially had the names of 57,939 Americans killed in the war inscribed on its shiny black granite wall panels.

The theater of operations and service dates were redefined and expanded over the years, so the number of names increased to 58,209 by Memorial Day 1997.

The names of the Memorial's honored

dead include eight women nurses--seven Army and one Air Force--151 Medal of Honor recipients, and 16 Chaplains--seven Catholic, seven Protestant and two Jewish.

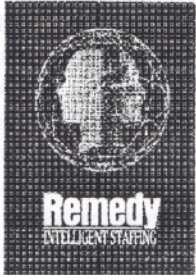
The \$8.4 million raised to build the Memorial came from private donations. No federal funds were used.

People's reaction to the Memorial has changed since 1982 as American culture has changed, Scruggs said.

"It continues to mean a lot to people, not just military veterans," he said.

Its design and its messages of service, sacrifice and the tragedy of war touch everybody, he said.

Rosemary C. Loring
Owner



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