



# 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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**CENTRAL BUCKS  
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR:**  
WIL HAAS

## HQMC Encourages Survey Participation

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC - Marine Corps officials are trying to reach an additional 10,000 former residents of Camp Lejeune's on-base housing who may have been exposed to contaminants in the water supply prior to 1985.

The effort is being made in support of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a public health service agency. ATSDR is attempting to survey precious on-base housing residents to determine if exposure to drinking water may be related to specific health concerns in children that were conceived during the time of exposure. The survey, which began in September 1999, is seeking parents of those children born or conceived while living at base family housing at Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985.

Depending on the results of the survey, the ATSDR may conduct a health study to enhance scientific understanding of the health risks associated with exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the water supply. It is now known that VOCs were present in base water distribution systems that provided water to on-base housing.

The survey focuses on two specific VOCs, tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), often used in dry cleaning or as degreasers. Those substances were found in the Camp Lejeune water systems that supplied the on-base housing areas prior to 1985. All of the wells containing VOCs were shut down by early 1985. Currently, all drinking water at Camp Lejeune is regularly tested and is safe to drink.

For the past year, ATSDR and Camp Lejeune officials have been trying to contact the former residents using a combination of methods including direct mail, news releases around military bases, notices in military publications, and open houses. To date, over 6,500 former residents have been contacted; however, a significant number of former residents have not yet been located.

In an effort to extend the search for potential survey participants, Marine Corps officials in Washington are asking national news organizations to assist them in locating these former Camp Lejeune residents and their families.

"The health and welfare of Marines and their families is very important to us," Col. Mike Lehnert, head of the Marine Corps' Facilities and Services Division. "We have Marine families with questions that cannot be answered unless the survey is completed, so it is very important to us that we do everything possible to help ATSDR reach

(Continued on Page 3)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT  
1930 ON 10 JANUARY 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,  
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I want to thank those who made it out to the December Meeting. I know that with Christmas so close to a meeting, it makes it hard to get there. We still had a good turnout and we collected some toys to help out needy children. A close friend informed me about a needy family and I made a donation of \$100 in the Detachment's name, along with a smaller donation from my family. The Detachment members were generous enough to make, and pass, a motion to reimburse me. I thank you guys and the family it went to is extremely grateful. You don't

know how much a small amount can mean to someone down on his luck.

January brings the thoughts of things ahead for the new year. This year we will be doing our usual fund raiser, the parking detail. I know it is way early, but I want you to remember how important this is and set some time aside. We also have our usual parades and, this year, we will have the cookout I've been promising since I moved into the new house. Spring also means the election of detachment officers. If you haven't given any thought to being an officer, maybe

it's time you do. There are some who are already doing things for the Detachment and keep fighting the idea of sitting on this side of the table. I say, "Come on over," the view is good and you always know where you are going to sit. It takes one decision out of your already busy schedule. So, you see, being an officer can make your life easier!

Happy New Year to all of you and your families!



## MEDALS DIRECTORY

Medals awarded while in service are issued by the appropriate service if requested by veterans or, if deceased, their next of kin.

Requests for medals from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard should be sent to: U.S. Navy Liaison Office, National Personnel Records Center, Room 3475, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, so it can be read clearly. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or, the next of kin if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security Number, and exact or approximate dates of service. If possible, send the request on Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records." These forms can be obtained at your local or county Veterans Affairs Office or a Department of Veterans

Affairs Regional Office.

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**WORLD WAR I FRENCH VETERANS MEDAL:** France wants to bestow the National order of the Legion of Honor on surviving U.S. veterans who fought on French soil during World War I. It is that country's highest honor. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is assisting the French government in identifying and locating an estimated 900 World War I veterans who served in France and currently receive VA benefits. The medal will not be posthumously awarded to U.S. veterans. Applications must be sent by veterans or their representatives directly to the French Embassy in Washington, DC. While VA will assist the French Embassy in verifying and authenticating veterans' records of service, the French government will make final determination on the awarding of the Legion of Honor.

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**CHINESE WAR MEMORIAL MEDAL:** Military personnel who served in the Armed Forces from Dec. 7, 1941, until Sept. 29, 1945, are eligible for a Chinese War Memorial Medal issued by the Republic of China. To obtain the medal, send a letter and a copy of your DD-214, CSC, or other proof of service to Liang Pingsheng, Director,

Major General of Coordination Council for North American Affairs, 4201 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, DC 20016.

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**REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL:** American service members were formerly prohibited from accepting any foreign decoration unless approved by Congress. In 1954, Congress approved the receipt and wearing of foreign medals, but not the Korean War Service Medal. This has now been approved, but it will take some time to work out the details on documentation necessary to process applications and distribute the award. It will probably include a DD-214 or WDAGO Form 20 to prove service in Korea during the specific period designated.

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**PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL:** You may be eligible for a Philippine Liberation Medal if you served in the Philippines between Oct. 17, 1944, and Sept. 3, 1945, for at least 30 days. It is being issued by the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC. To apply, send a letter request and a copy of your DD-214 to: Defense Armed Forces Affairs Office, Embassy of the Philippines, 1600 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.



### 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.

# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps league of Pennsylvania, was held December 13, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 13 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant, Paymaster and Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Frank Yohe, Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth, and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

The Minutes of the November Meeting were unanimously accepted.

**Commandant Budd Pearce** read a letter from the Department of Pennsylvania about a Life Membership program. He announced the Nominating Committee for officers for the coming year will be activated at the January Meeting. The Committee, consisting of all Detachment Past Commandants, will be chaired by the Junior Past Commandant.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 56 members: 15 Life Members, 37 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mess Sergeant Wil Haas** read a newspaper article about Marines in Korea. November and December 2000 mark the 50th Anniversary of the Chosin reservoir Campaign in Korea.

It was announced the Vietnam Veterans of American will hold its Annual Christmas Remembrance on Saturday, December 16, at 6 p.m.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 10, 2001, at 7:30 p.m.**

## Camp Lejeune Survey

*(Continued from Page 1)*

as many of the former residents as we can.”

Lehnert added that it is important for all individuals who qualify for the survey to participate, whether or not their children have experienced any health concerns.”

The 35-question health survey is conducted by telephone and attempts to gather data which may be used in a follow-up scientific research study about the effects that these substances may have on children when exposed before birth.

All families whose children were born or conceived at Camp Lejeune from 1968 through 1985 are encouraged to participate in this survey, whether or not the child was exhibited any health concerns. To participate, call the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at (800) 639-4270. NORC is conducting the survey for the ATSDR. For more information about the ongoing study, call the ATSDR at (888) 42-ATSDR, extension 5132. The Marine Corps has also established a toll free number at (877) 261-9782 and a web site [www.usmc.mil/camlejewatersurvey](http://www.usmc.mil/camlejewatersurvey) for general information.

The National Opinion Research Center is aware of the phone of the phone problems and have provided the following e-mail info to help alleviate the surge of calls: in order to protect your privacy, please respond with only your name and phone number and the best time for NORC to call you back. The e-mail address is: [4827-lejeune@norcmail.uchicago.edu](mailto:4827-lejeune@norcmail.uchicago.edu).

## SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—Lower Away!

—By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson



# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE, IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME DID LIVE

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE, NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKINGS BY THE MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND, ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS, A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH MY MIND

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER, NOT HOW I PICTURED A UNITED STATES SOLDIER

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D JUST READ? CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT, OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON 'ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY, AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER HOW MANY LAY ALONE, ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE, I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE, "SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR MORE, MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP, I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL AND WE BOTH SHIVERED FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT COLD, DARK NIGHT, THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR, SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE, WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT. "MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

## LESSONS FROM GEESE

The Home & Garden Television sales staff learned a few lessons from geese at a recent meeting.

**Fact 1:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

**Lesson 1:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

**Fact 2:** When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly

moves back into formation.

**Lesson 2:** If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

**Fact 3:** When the lead goose tries, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

**Lesson 3:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents and resources.

**Fact 4:** The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**Lesson 4:** We need to make sure our honking is encouraging.

**Fact 5:** When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

**Lesson 5:** If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

# Veterans Claim Korean War Medals

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Almost 50 years after the Republic of Korea offered a medal to American troops who defended the country, the veterans are beginning to receive it.

Personnel officials at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, have received about 20,000 applications for the Korean War Service Medal since beginning to accept applications in July. They've issued about 1,000.

Estimates of the number of eligible veterans range from 1.4 million to 1.8 million, said Col. David Ashton, chief of the promotion, evaluation, and recognition division at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

As many as 1,000 applications are pouring in to the personnel center each day, and the center has sent out more than 18,000 information packets telling veterans how to apply.

"We had no idea how quickly or how many applications we would receive," Ashton said.

The center has part-time college students working part time and three service members processing the requests.

Three more civilian temporary workers are scheduled to start soon, and there is a request pending to assign two or three more military members, Ashton said.

The team also is scheduled to receive

help from at least two reservists and the local office of the Veterans Affairs Department is working to create a work-study position to work on the applications.

"We don't have all 20,000 [applications] in the database yet," Ashton said. "But then again, we don't have 20,000 medals to ship."

The center notified the South Korean government to increase production of the medals, but for now, priority is going to group ceremonies, with remaining medals issued on a first-in, first-out basis to living veterans.

Because of the shortage, spouses of deceased veterans and other eligible next of kin have to wait until more medals are available.

On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense approved the acceptance and wear of the medal and directed the Air Force to receive and distribute the medals for all eligible troops.

The medals are available to people who served in the military in Korea, in adjacent waters or in flight above it for at least 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days between June 25, 1950, the outbreak of hostilities, and July 27, 1953, the day the armistice was signed. The medals are free.

Eligibility can usually be verified with the veteran's discharge paper, the DD-214, or the corrected version, the DD-215. National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, NGB Form 22.

"It's a rare [application] that we find doesn't have the documentation," Ashton said.

Besides the shortage of medals, the biggest concern is that some veterans are sending the original DD-214s that the center cannot return.

"We're asking that they please don't send the original. A copy is good enough," Ashton said.

Additional information on how to apply for the free medal can be obtained by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Central time Monday - Friday at (800) 558-1404 or on the web at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards>.

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# Largest M-I-A Recovery Operation Concludes

Remains believed to be those of 15 American soldiers, missing in action from the Korean War, will be repatriated on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, Korean time. This is the largest number of remains recovered during a single joint recovery operation.

The remains will be flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where a United Nations Command repatriation ceremony will be held.

A joint U.S. - North Korea team operating in Unsan and Kujan counties, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered the remains during an operation that began Oct. 17. The area was the site of battles between Communist Chinese forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November, 1950.

The 20-person U.S. team is composed primarily of specialists from the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

This year's work in North Korea was the most productive to-date, recovering 65 sets of remains during five operations. As a result of negotiated agreements with North Korea, led by the Defense Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), 107 sets of remains have been recovered in 17 joint recovery operations since 1966. Five servicemen have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Another 10 are nearing the final stages of the forensic identification process.

Officials at DPMO have initiated contact with North Korean officials to begin


preliminary planning for formal discussions in December to establish a schedule of operations for 2001.

Of the 88,000 U.S. service members missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

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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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor - where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's Signature)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)  
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P.O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**  
**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
**Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**



**"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"**