



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

P.O. Box 1372

Doylestown, PA 18901

JANUARY 1988 NEWSLETTER

I trust you had a happy and satisfying holiday season. Now that it is over, along with the excitement and expense, we can move forward to new business.

As you probably know by now, our Commandant, Don Paronese, has been forced to resign his office due to personal family matters. Fortunately, he will remain as a member of the detachment and contribute what ever is possible in the future. We regret his departure and I am sure everyone in the detachment joins me in extending our sincere appreciation to him for his leadership during our initial year of existence. We will hope for his early return to active service with us.

The attendance at the last two meetings was very sparse, preventing us from holding formal meetings; however those present did participate in informal discussions. If this detachment is to be successful we must have the participation and input of the membership. We cannot survive with an absent majority month after month. We all learned in the early days in the Corps that we must work as a unit and that everyone's actions have a direct effect on the entire group. It is just as true today as it was then and we must each do the best we can to insure that our detachment is a strong, prosperous organization.

At the last meeting we had two visitors; Paul J. Seton the Penna. State Commandant and Kay Kroll, SE Division Vice-Comdt. They presented us with a Citation and Flag Pole Ribbon for 100% membership renewal in 1987.

It is once again membership renewal time. Please send in your 1988 dues as soon as possible and help to put our detachment in line for the 100% Renewal Citation in 1988.

We anticipate voting into membership, Marlin J. Miller of Fort Washington, Pa. who was recruited by Ray Krout, our Adjutant. Welcome aboard, Marlin.

There are plenty of former Marines out there and we need them. Do your best to sign them up and help to strengthen the ranks of the Central Bucks Detachment.

Semper Fi

Robert A. Schaffer

Sr. Vice - Commandant



Department of Pennsylvania - Marine Corps League

From: COMMANDANT
To: All Marines
Subj: Update # 6
Date: 1 December 1987

Holiday Greetings

- Once a Marine** ...The first Department Newsletter in 5 years is now a reality, the comments, have been outstanding. Lee Davis PR NCO is scheduling the next issue for January 1988. Lee & I are setting our goals for a complete mailing to all members in the latter part of 88. Please ensure that your Detachment Newsletter is sent to our PR NCO.
- Occasion Card Program** So little does so much, your contribution supports the Dept. of PA, MCL. Please don't forget your contribution to the All Occasion Card Program. Remember your generous support has enabled the Marine Corps League to serve Veterans.
- Membership** The Dept. is in a period of Renewals. The Marine Corps has its Career Planner who is responsible for Marines shipping over. The League has Sr Vice Commandants in each Detachment and they basically do the same task. I know we can, why hesitate, lets go after those 4000 Marines for the Department of Pennsylvania, Marine Corps League.
- Appointments** I have appointed Jess Hartman, P.W. Milano Detachment to the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Memorial Council. His Address is in your directory. John Wilson, Valley Forge Detachment is the Department's representative to the S.E. Veterans Center at Spring City. This job will cover regular visits to the Center by Detachments who support activities for the Veteran residing there. Wilson...can be reached by calling HP-(215)265-1838, BP-(215) 337-1210 or write 380 Springhouse Road, King of Prussia PA 19406.
- Installations Transmittals** Please send NO Transmittals direct to National. Send all Transmittals to Bob Schatz, Dept. Paymaster, sending to the wrong address only causes hold-ups and confusion. Life Members must be transmitted each year. If you had a recent installation, ensure that the correct copies are mailed to the right person. (white-National, canary State Div. Vice, pink Dept. assis Adjutant, goldenrod Detachment)
- Sgt. of Arms** I commend Paul Waselewski for the outstanding job, he has done as Department Sgt at Arms. When you do a good job, you always receive more assignments. Paul has been appointed by the National Commandant to be an assistant National Sgt at Arms.
- Educational Gratuity** Many Members are not aware of this benefit and it reads as follows; Payments of Educational Gratuities are for children of honorably discharged Veterans who have been certified by the VA as having wartime service connected disabilities rated as totally & permanently disabled or children of Veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities. Children between 16 & 21, being unable to pursue education within the Commonwealth may be entitled to this benefit, call (717) 865-8910.
- Domiciliary Care** There are beds available at all 3 State Veteran homes, Erie, Holidaysburg, Spring City. If you know of a Veteran, that needs this type of care, call at Erie, (814)871-4531, At Holidaysburg (814) 696-5201, Spring City (215) 935-6000.
- Birthday** Many Happy Returns to Mrs Anna Bachiak, 103 years young on 20 December, she is the mother, for whom the Detachment is named in the N.W. Division.

Merry Christmas to all Marines, their families, friends and happiness throughout 1988.

Semper Fidelis

Paul J. Seton

EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY

The Bureau for Veterans Affairs, Department of Military Affairs, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, administers an educational gratuity program for children of certain Pennsylvania veterans.

This program provides for payment of educational gratuities for children between ages of 16-21 of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled as certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration, due to war or armed conflict service connected disabilities and children of veterans who die or have died of war or armed conflict service connected disabilities.

Applicants must be residents of Pennsylvania for five (5) years prior to date of application. Gratuities may not be paid for any child longer than four (4) scholastic years or to a maximum of \$1,600.00, not to exceed \$200.00 per semester.

Applicant must attend a State or State-aided educational or training institution of a secondary or college grade or other institution of higher education within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as approved by the Department of Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

At the present time, we have only 61 students participating in the program with an expected expenditure of \$24,400.00 out of an appropriation of \$75,000 for fiscal year 1987-88. For the past several years we have not expended the entire appropriation for Educational Gratuity, that is funds, are available to additional individuals who qualify. This is a gift program not a loan program.

In the last several sessions of the General Assembly, legislation has been introduced to amend the Administrative Code of 1929 to allow payments of \$500. per term or semester in lieu of the present payment of \$200.

If you believe that you qualify or know someone who may qualify, please contact your Service Officer, County Director for Veterans Affairs or call directly to the Bureau for Veterans Affairs, phone (717) 865-8910, for information.

NEWS BULLETIN
from the Bureau for Veterans Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002
Telephone: (717) 865-8911



30 October 1987

NO. 4/87

MG Gerald T. Sajer - The Adjutant General

Joseph R. Clelan, Director - Bureau for Veterans Affairs

VETERANS' HOMES - The Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Erie; Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg; and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Veterans' Center, Spring City, presently have a number of vacancies in their domiciliary care units.

The domiciliary care unit is a total "self care" unit, meaning that a veteran must be capable of maintaining himself and his living quarters without any type of supervision.

If you know of any interested veterans, please have them contact one of the Homes at the following telephone numbers:

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home - 814 - 696-5201
PA Soldiers' & Sailors' Home - 814 - 871-4531
Southeastern PA Veterans' Center - 215 - 935-6000

A Joint Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 22 October 1987 at the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home to discuss mutual problems facing veterans' health care institutions as well as a discussion of long term planning strategies vis-a-vis in-house operations, admissions, nurse recruitment and Aids.

FACING FACTS ABOUT 'ATOMIC' VETERANS - Once again the issue of compensation for "atomic veterans" is in the news, and once again, the Veterans Administration is painted as the villain, as being anti-veteran. It is important to note that disability compensation, by law, is paid to veterans for illness or injury suffered or aggravated during active service in line of duty. Currently, over 2.2 million veterans are receiving monthly payments from the VA for service-connected disabilities. At issue are proposals to enact legislation that would pay compensation to "atomic veterans" for various diseases that would be presumed to be service-connected. The presumptions would apply regardless of the particular merits of each claim. By law the VA is required to compensate veterans and their survivors for disabilities or deaths related by sound scientific and medical evidence to radiation exposure while on active duty.

CHAPTER 30 PAY REDUCTIONS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE - To qualify for Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) education benefits, persons entering the service on or after July 1, 1985 must have their pay reduced by \$100.00 a month for twelve months. The form to request the reduction, DD Form 2366, states that the money the person does not receive will not be refunded for any reason. In effect the money is never paid. If a veteran entered on active duty for the first time on or after July 1,

"Pennsylvania cares for its veterans, and their spouses and children."

1985, he or she can only qualify for Chapter 30 (or 106 for reservists). He or she is not eligible for a refund and should not be furnished VA Form 4-5281.

VJTA UPDATE - Recent legislation signed by the President appropriates \$30 million in additional funds for the Veterans' Job Training Act. Also, the new legislation extends the VJTA cutoff dates. A veteran now has until December 31, 1987 to apply for a certificate of eligibility and has until June 30, 1988 to enter an approved job training program.

VA WORK-STUDY PROGRAM - The VA Work-Study program permits eligible veterans to perform work at a Veterans Administration facility, an educational institution, or a non-VA organization when VA-related work is available. To be eligible under this program, a veteran must be receiving full-time benefits under Chapter 30 (The Montgomery GI Bill), Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation), Chapter 32 (VEAP), or Chapter 34 (The GI Bill). In addition, he or she must have remaining entitlement a must be within his or her ten year period of eligibility. The payment rate is \$3.35 per hour and the income from the program is non-taxable.

NEW GI BILL REFUNDS - Congress may be moving toward consideration of a measure which will make pay forfeiture under the new Montgomery GI Bill refundable as a result of the tragedy aboard the USS STARK. Three of the sailors killed in the Iraqi missile attack were enrolled for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill. However, as a result of their death, their payments for education benefits will be unused. Refunds, even to survivors, are not authorized.

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL CLARIFIED - Although there is no change to the new beneficiary travel regulations, which became effective on April 13, 1987, the Veterans Administration has clarified its medical regulations in order to make the payment of travel more understandable for veterans. The proviso that payment to veteran travel patients would be limited to those beyond a 100 mile radius has been deleted and an \$11.00 deductible will be instituted for one-way travel and a \$22.00 deductible will be imposed for roundtrip transportation. These standard deductibles will only change if there is an increase or decrease in the mileage reimbursement rate, currently at 11 cents per mile. Deleting any references to the 100 mile radius requirement was deemed to be easier for veterans to understand and easier for the VA medical centers to administer.

PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL CHANGES TO VETERANS' TRAVEL BENEFITS - The VA may soon have to relax its eligibility requirements for veterans who seek reimbursement for travel to VA medical facilities. Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS) and Gerald Solomon (R-NY), along with more than 100 Members of the House, introduced legislation that would require the VA to restore the travel allowance for certain categories of veterans who need VA medical care. The bill would entitle travel payments to:

*service-connected veterans for treatment of their service-connected disabilities;

- *service-connected veterans who are disabled 50 percent or more, for treatment of any disability;
- *veterans who receive a VA pension;
- *low-income veterans who do not have an annual income exceeding the maximum annual amount of a VA pension;
- *veterans who need but cannot afford special made transportation, such as ambulance or wheelchair vans;
- *and any other person the VA determines to be unable to afford transportation.

THE AGENT ORANGE SETTLEMENT FUND - In order to reduce the administrative costs to the Agent Orange Settlement Fund, the Agent Orange Computer Center has established a toll-free number, 1-800-645-1355, to respond to questions as to the status of the fund. Preparing and sending out the necessary claim forms will require some months before payments can be made in that this preparation cannot be started until all appeals are decided. Individuals calling to change address or obtain new or additional information concerning his/her claim will need to write to:

**The Agent Orange Computer Center
P. O. Box 887
Smithtown, New York 11787**

Please be sure to include claim or Social Security number on all correspondence.

VA EVALUATES AIDS DRUGS - The VA is conducting a cooperative study of the drug azidothymidine (AZT) to determine its effectiveness in treating AIDS-related complex (ARC), the state of the viral infection thought to precede AIDS. The study is the first to evaluate AZT's long-term benefits and toxicities for ARC patients and should contribute to the limited knowledge of the course of the disease.

VA HOSPITALS BRACE FOR ADDITIONAL AIDS VICTIMS - Veterans Administration officials say that during the next two years, VA hospitals will be called upon to treat an estimated 550 service members who have been discharged from the military with AIDS. The chief medical director of the VA, said VA hospitals have treated 2,014 cases of AIDS during the last four years and expect to treat 14,000 AIDS patients within four years.

DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM - The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) was established in 1979 to provide a means for minimizing fraudulent use of military health benefits by unauthorized persons, improving the control and distribution of available military health care services, and projecting and allocating cost for existing and future health care programs. Active duty service members and retirees who draw retired pay are automatically enrolled in DEERS. Family members are not automatically enrolled in DEERS. Questions regarding DEERS enrollment may also be directed to the DEERS Beneficiary Center by calling (800) 538-9552. Note, DEERS does not apply to military families covered by CHAMPVA, administered by the Veterans Administration.

VA ADOPTS CHANGES IN BURIAL BENEFITS POLICIES - The Veterans Administration has adopted new policy on branch of service inscriptions for veterans' grave markers and has issued new requirements for the delivery of all government-issued monuments. The VA will now provide inscriptions for all branches of service, on headstones and markers at government expense. Also, the VA now delivers allgrave monuments by private carrier.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS NOW SERVE NATION'S VETS - In their work at the Veterans Administration, recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor share with many fellow employees a strong sense of mission. Gino Merli, 62, benefits counselor at the VA Medical Center in Wilkes Barre, PA., says, "Because you are helping your fellow man, working for the VA is very rewarding." Merli is the only World War II veteran remaining among this elite group of employees. He has been with the VA for 41 years.

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - The Veterans Administration telephone service is staffed by Benefits Counselors from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Counselors are available to answer general information questions, discuss all aspects of VA claims, and take inquiries concerning specific claims. Generally, a caller will have a reply within 10 work days.

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE - 1-800-242-0233

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL OFFICE - 1-800-822-3920

THE GOVERNOR'S VETERANS OUTREACH & ASSISTANCE CENTER

12923 Route 30, North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 15642
(412) 864-7220 1-800-442-6815

NEWS RELEASE

December 23, 1987

CONTACT: Robert S. Bishop, Director
(412) 864-7220

MEDALS FOR VIETNAM AND LIBYAN OPERATIONS

The Department of Defense has authorized campaign medals for Operations in Libya which will allow certain peacetime veterans preference when competing for federal civil service positions.

The Navy Expeditionary Medal and the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal have been authorized for Operations in Libya, during the period between January 20 through June 27, 1986. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal has been authorized for Operations in Libya, during the period between April 12 through April 17, 1986.

According to Robert Bishop, Director of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Program, serving Southwestern Pennsylvania, "Peace time veterans who served on active duty after September 8, 1980, do not usually qualify for federal veterans preference, even though they are still eligible for state veterans preference. Many veterans eligible for these medals have already been released from active duty."

"Many Vietnam Veterans who served "in Country", that is in Vietnam, before 1968, are not aware that the Government of South Vietnam awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam and all subordinate units for service between 1962 and 1973," said Bishop. In addition, the South Vietnamese Government authorized the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation to the entire Military Assistance Command-Vietnam for service in Vietnam between January 1, 1965 through March 28, 1973. The Vietnamese ribbons can be purchased through a number of sources in the private sector.

To ensure that military records are complete and properly reflect awards and decorations, or to obtain medals and ribbons that were lost, destroyed, or never issued, veterans can contact the GVOAC at 1-800-442-6815.

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NEWS RELEASE

December 9, 1987

CONTACT: Robert S. Bishop, Director
(412) 864-7220

The Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center, serving Southwestern Pennsylvania, reminds veterans that the Veterans Administration can provide in-patient and out-patient treatment for drug and alcohol addiction. "A significant number of combat veterans from all war periods, especially World War II Prisoners of War, never had the benefit of programs like Vet Centers to help them overcome the delayed effects of the trauma they experienced during the war," said Bob Bishop, Director of the American Legion Sponsored Program. "Consequently, many turned to self medication or were treated with drugs under a medical mental health model. Many of these veterans now find themselves being treated by the VA medical system for the secondary effects of substance addiction such as, cirrosis, organic brain damage, diabetees, and high blood pressure," Bishop added.

For more information on the issues of substance abuse and available treatment, veterans can contact the CVOAC at 1-800-442-6815.

Marines' 'Papa Bear' wants tough guys

As North Vietnamese troops strangled Saigon in April 1975, the head of U.S. ground forces safeguarding the U.S. exit — a Marine colonel code-named "Papa Bear" — set explosive charges to go off once evacuation was complete.

As the 29th commandant of the Marine Corps, one of Gen. Alfred Gray Jr.'s nicknames is still Papa Bear — and he's still setting off explosions.

One of Gray's first decisions after taking command last July restored live-grenade training at Marine boot camps after a 2½-year hiatus.

"I don't think boot camp is tough enough," says Gray, 59, who lists **Erwin Rommel**, **Genghis Khan**, **Sun Tzu** and **Stonewall Jackson** as his favored military strategists. By next year, drill instructors will swap 160 hours of non-combat training for tactical courses.

And when his top staff gath-



By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

GRAY: His business cards are of camouflage design.

ers at headquarters next month, he'll drop the traditional luncheons and visit to the Kennedy Center. On the agenda instead: war games.

The Marine of the future, says Gray, 59, is "going to be a tough guy. He's going to be what his idea of a Marine was

in the first place ... what he joined to be."

Gray's back-to-basics style, a throwback to battle-tested generals such as **George Patton**, is just what the nation's 200,000 Marines need, observers say, as they buff an image tarnished by recent scandals.

Every Marine a rifleman first

By next year, all Marine recruits — male and female — will get special infantry training. Every Marine, says Gen. Alfred Gray Jr., "has to be a rifleman first, then he flies airplanes, fixes helicopters, operates radios, drives tanks." The new commandant's other plans include:

- Operating a consolidated think tank, the "Warfighting Center," at Quantico, Va.

- Restoring a fourth rifle company to each battalion.

- Restoring the "exalted" status of drill instructors by eliminating some officer positions inserted by Congress after training fatalities.

- Shortening tours and ending "homesteading" by Marines who hog popular posts.

where he led the 2nd Marine Division, he's remembered for donning a helmet and tanker's goggles — and for leading a lost patrol back to base by dropping his helmet, with a note in it, from a helicopter.

A self-described "maverick," he favors camouflage fatigues and jungle boots, even in the office, where he sometimes wields a baseball bat — with a camouflage handle. Even his business cards are of camouflage design.

In his first five months, he has visited nearly every major Marine base around the world, urging his "warriors" to live up to the special status Marines enjoy as "the premiere fighting force on this planet."

"This nation desperately needs at least one outfit that can call themselves truly military professionals."

A tobacco-chewing, gruff-talking "mustang" Marine — an officer who rose from the enlisted ranks — Gray grew up on the New Jersey shore. In 1981, he married **Jan Goss**, daughter of Patton's maintenance officer.

At Camp Lejeune, N.C.,

— Laurence Jolidon



(OCT 1987)

Last Marine

Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Charles B. Russell relates stories of hand-to-hand combat to young Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Russell, who officially retires Friday, is the last active-duty combat veteran from World War II.

(AP photo)

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