

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
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
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Jr. VICE COMMANDANT: DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.

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MARINE OF THE YEAR BOB MOMORELLA

Corps Gearing Up for New Cammies

By Lance Cpl. John R. Lawson III

By the end of this year, you may see some Marines in new and different looking utilities and boots, and by October of 2005, you will see all Marines in the new field uniform.

That's because the Commandant of the Marine Corps, **Gen. James Jones**, recently approved uniforms sporting the "pixel" camouflage scheme and rugged looking boots.

While the patterns on the new uniforms may be the most prominent new feature, they are hardly the only change.

There will be angled chest pockets with angled name tapes and service tapes. Also, the chest pockets will have Velcro fasteners. Velcro can be noisy, but because chest pockets would be buried under a flak jacket in tactical situations, that's a non-issue. All other fasteners on the uniforms use buttons, including the new shoulder pockets. The sleeve cuffs will fasten with inboard buttons instead of outboard buttons to prevent snagging.

The uniforms will be made from a half-and-half blend of nylon and cotton. Thanks to the use of wash-and-wear material, Marines won't have so spend so much time and money keeping up their cammies.

Covers to be worn with the utilities will have the same shape Marines are accustomed to seeing, but they will sport the new camouflage scheme. Boonie covers will have smaller brims.

To make the uniforms more durable, there will be special reinforcement in the knees and the butt. Also, there will be insert spaces so that Marines can use knee and elbow pads.

The change in uniforms also comes with a change in boots. The new infantry combat boots and jungle-and-desert boots will be made of rough leather. Just as the wash-and-wear blend means no more ironing of uniforms, the rough leather means no more polishing of boots.

In other words, the new uniforms won't only change the look of the Marine Corps; they'll reduce the amount of effort Marines have to pour into their uniforms.

This could be bad news for the manufacturers of starch and boot polish.

"A lot of teamwork went into this combat utilities program," said 1st Lt.

(See CAMMIES, Page 4)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 11 JULY 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Thanks to all of you who turned out for the Memorial Day Parade, it was really a great parade! I also want to thank those who came to my little picnic the Sunday before the parade. My wife says that you all were so well behaved that she might even consider having you back again. Since you were here there have been a few changes to the back yard. This last Saturday we had those nasty floods and they decided to take out my fence and a good size piece of my yard, not to mention the 10 inches of water that went through my basement. Oh well, shit happens to everyone, I'll get it back in shape and put together another cookout as soon as I can.

Speaking of parades, don't forget we are on for the Chalfont/New Britain 4th of July parade. We will meet at the Cle-

mens on Rt. 202 at about 8:15-8:30 AM to assemble the float. The parade starts at 10. Our float will be judged in the patriotic category again this year. I know that it is usually very hot for this parade so rest assured that there will be cold water, ice tea and soda on board the float. There will be lunch stuff at the park after the parade as usual. My wife is already asking how many people we will have so that she can be sure to have enough for everyone. I hope that most of you can make it and I know Sgt.-at-Arms Bob Sundling hopes that at least 3 other Marines show up with Dress Blue trousers so that we will have a color guard. If you are one of the regulars I am sure Bob will be calling you within the next day or so.

Even if you can't make it to the parade on the 4th, make sure to be at the next meeting. Our new Jr. Vice Don Parzanese

Jr. is going to let us in on some of his plans for this year's Birthday Ball. He says that it's time for some young blood to take over and show us "Old Corps" guys how to throw a Ball. Judging by the fresh "High & Tight" hair cut he was wearing at the last meeting, I think he's serious. I have every confidence that Donny will do an outstanding job as Jr. Vice and I think with a bit of encouragement from the rest of the members, we may be looking at our next Commandant. Come to the meetings, get involved in the Detachment and find out what a good feeling you get making a difference. See you there!

Semper Fi,

Budd Flance

VA Changes Position on 'Agent Orange' Exposure

Until recently, the VA would grant compensation to veterans exposed to Agent Orange (AO) outside of Vietnam only if the claimant proved exposure to AO and provided a medical connection between the current disease and that exposure.

In an apparent effort to equalize the treatment of all veterans exposed to AO, the VA recently announced that if exposure outside of Vietnam were proven, and the veteran had one of the 10 diseases presumed by law to be related to exposure to AO, the medical connection would be presumed and the claim granted



LISTEN UP!

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unless there were other disqualifying factors. See comments on the final rule adding diabetes to the list of "AO diseases" in 38 C.F.R. 3.309(e), at 66 Federal Register, page 23, 166 (May 8, 2001).

In addition, any veteran concerned about exposure to AO during use, manufacture, testing or transport outside of Vietnam, may be given an AOphysical by the VA and added to the Agent Orange Registry (VHA Directive 2000-027).

The only real issue is proving exposure (all persons who served in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed.) The VA is determining whether Department of Defense information is sufficient to add some non-Vietnam units to the presumptive exposure list, but none have been added as of June 2001. The following areas outside of Vietnam have been confirmed as places where AO was used:

- 1. The Korean demilitarized zone in 1968 and 1969 (extensive spraying).
- 2. Fort Drum, NY in 1959 (testing). Other areas where veterans allege AO to have been sprayed include:

- 1. Guam from 1955 through 1960s (spraying).
- 2. Johnston Atoll (1972-1978) was used for unused AO storage.
- 3. Panama Canal Zone from 1960s to early 1970s (spraying).

2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4TH OF JULY PARADE JULY 4 CHAL-BRIT SHOPPING CTR.

DETACHMENT MEETING JULY 11

DETACHMENT MEETING AUGUST 8

DETACHMENT MEETING SEPTEMBER 12

DETACHMENT MEETING OCTOBER 10

DETACHMENT MEETING NOVEMBER 14

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held June 13, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members in attendance including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included National Public Relations Officer and Past Commandant Don Gee, Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr. and Frank Yohe, and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.

Potential Member Bill Terrom was a visitor to the meeting.

The Minutes of the May Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

Sick Call: Marine Jim Marckstein was reported in Abington Hospital undergoing treatment for a sore on his foot that was not healing properly.

OFFICERS CALL

Commandant Budd Pearce relayed information received about the New Jersey Veterans Homecoming. He reminded the members the Detachment will meet between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on July 4 in the parking lot near Clemens Market to put the finishing touches on the float for the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported he is working on ideas for the Birthday Ball and will form a committee next month to help formulate plans. He stated he is attempting to do the Ball differently this year than from previous years

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence other than thast which had already been announced..

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported the Detachment Color Guard will be participating in the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported he had some new shirts in stock and invited the members to take a look at them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations: The Public Relations Officer set June 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the July issue of *Listen Up!* **Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported he had received a new ad for the newsletter.

Rifle & Pistol Team: Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported on the Department Pistol Match. Commandant Pearce was again the team's high shooter this year. Anyone interested in joining either the Pistol Team and/or the Rifle Team should contact him or Commandant Pearce.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Pearce appointed the annual Audit Committee and charged it to report its findings to the membership at the next meeting. The Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. on July 11 at the American Legion Post.

Marine Paul Caprio motioned the Detachment participate in this year's Air Show at the Willow Grove Reserve Base. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas reported he had four opening on the bus trip to 8th & I on Aug. 10. Anyone wanting to join the group should contact him immediately.

The Public Relations Officer reported that because of the Detachment's request to honor Doylestown's only Medal of Honor recipient--Marine Private Charles R. Francis --Doylestown Township is erecting a "Community Service Monument" to honor all who have served the community in peace and war. He motioned to have the Detachment purchase a \$400 Commemorative Paver in Francis' name. The motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Bill Rosenberger motioned to have the Detachment support the non-profit "Atomic Cheer Athletic Association" of which his daughter is a member by purchasing a \$200 full-page ad in its booklet. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until July 11.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PROGRESSES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "More than three million World War II veterans have died since Congress approved a national memorial to them in 1993, yet no work has not begun," said House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith (NJ-4) during the recent debate on H.R. 1696, legislation to expedite construction of the already-approved World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

"We've had enough discussion, objections, and dilatory tactics. It's time to break ground on this memorial," said Smith. The House later voter to approve H.R. 1696, which was sponsored by Armed Services Committee Chairman Bob Stump (AZ-3) and cosponsored by Veterans' Committee Chairman Smith

and Ranking Democrat Member Lane Evans (IL-17). The legislation now moves to the Senate for their approval.

"The design and site for the memorial have been carefully studied, considered and approved over a period of more than six years, a longer time than it took to win World War II," said Chairman Smith. "The Allied victory in this greatest war in world history represented a triumph of the human spirit and began the march of freedom and democracy across the world that continues even today," he said.

"America must never forget the cost of victory, nor the men and women who paid for this victory with their lives," Smith said. "The World War II Memorial is a tribute to their service, as well as a permanent reminder for all of us, as well as future generations to come, about the eternal value of freedom and the price that was paid to secure it," he said.

"H.R. 1696 will be the sixth bipartisan piece of legislation Congress sent to the White House for approval attempting to move the process along," said Congressman Bob Stump, prime sponsor of the bill. "Over the past six years, 22 public hearings have been help on the site and design of the memorial, which has received the endorsement of the Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia and four endorsements from the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board," he said.

"In addition, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission have each rendered approval for the memorial five times. The site was approved by both the Secretary of Interior and the President. And still construction has not begun," Stump said.

"More than 50 years after the end of World War II there still does not exist in our Nation's capital a fitting memorial to the service and sacrifice of the millions of Americans who preserved democracy and defeated totalitarianism during World War II.

The time to construct this memorial is now," Evans said. Noting that the National World War II Memorial will be located between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, Evans said some critics of the memorial argue the memorial would "clutter up an already crowded site. A prominent memorial to those whose service and sacrifice this memorial will honor is not 'clutter'," he declared.

Navy to Leave Vieques Island

The Pentagon has announced it is planning to permanently end controversial naval training on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques in 2003, a senior U.S. official said.

In Washington, officials said the Pentagon had announced that the step would be taken regardless of the results of a November referendum by residents of the small island off Puerto Rico, a U.S. Caribbean territory.

News of the Navy decision emerged just hours after an aircraft carrier battle group began a new round of exercises off Vieques.

"We plan to be out of there by May 2003," said one of the officials in Washington. One defense official said the decision had been made by President George W. Bush, based on the political realities of strong Hispanic opposition to the continued use of the island, and that new Navy Secretary Gordon England had agreed.

One official stressed that the Navyplanned up to 90 days a year of training on Vieques until May 2003.

Opponents of the training say it damages the health of Vieques' 9,300 residents and the environment and seek an immediate halt to the bombing.

There was no immediate reaction to the news from Puerto Rico's **Gov. Sila Calderon**, who had traveled to Vieques to express solidarity with residents and to announce that she had signed a bill to hold a referendum among Vieques voters in July on the Navy's future on the island.

The Navy has conducted bombing exercises on Vieques, a 33,000-acre island, for some six decades.

It remained to be seen whether Calderon would now revise plans to hold a referendum on July 29. While the vote would not bind the federal government, Calderon has argued it would be effective at influencing public opinion.

The Navy's use of Vieques has sparked widespread protests since a civilian security guard was killed there in a botched bombing run two years ago. During war games in April, about 180 protesters were arrested for trespassing on Navy property.

CAMMIES

Burrell Parmer, a spokesman for Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va. "It was for Marines and decided by Marines."

The Corps used survey information and feedback from a web site that garnered 17,000 hits, 1st Lt. Parmer said.

For good measure, Marines tested the proposed uniforms in a variety of conditions, he said. First Lt. Parmer said the

(Continued from Page 1)

Corps' philosophy was, "If it doesn't work, it's gone."

For example, a prototype uniform included sleeves that could zip off to make a short-sleeve uniform.

The zip-off sleeves were ditched after 89 percent of the Marines surveyed said they didn't like the idea.

Said 1st Lt. Parmer, "What Marines want, Marines get."





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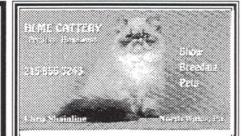
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