



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVIII, Number 7

JULY 2006

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
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7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
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MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. (BUD) PEARCE III, PC

Conway Nominated for CMC

Lieutenant General James T. Conway currently serving as the Director of Operations, J-3, on the Joint Staff, Washington, DC, has been nominated by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to be the next Commandant of the Marine Corps replacing Gen. Michael W. Hagee who will retire shortly. No date has yet been set for the Change of Command.

Conway was commissioned in 1970 as an infantry officer and served initially with the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, Camp Pendleton, as a rifle platoon commander and as the Battalion's 106mm recoilless-rifle platoon commander. Subsequently, he served as a company commander in the Infantry Training Regiment; as Executive Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63); at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as a series and company commander in the Recruit Training Regiment, as the aide to the Commanding General, and as Director, Sea School.

After career level school in 1977, he reported to 3d Battalion, 2d Marines, 2d Marine Division, where he commanded two companies and served in the Regiment's S-3. Posted to The Basic School he commanded two companies of officer students and taught tactics. Following intermediate level school, his next tour was as operations officer for the 31st MAU, where he spent 13 months at sea in WESTPAC and in contingency operations off Beirut, Lebanon.

Returning to CONUS in July 1984, he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, and later served two years as Senior Aide to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Upon completion of top level school, he was reassigned to the 2d Marine Division serving as Division G-3 Operations Officer before assuming command of 3d Battalion, 2d Marines in January 1990. Under his command Battalion Landing Team 3/2 deployed to Southwest Asia for eight months for Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM.

Selected for Colonel, he was assigned as the Ground Colonels' Monitor, HQMC. He assumed command of The Basic School on April 30, 1993, and in that role was selected for Brigadier General in December 1995. Reassigned to the Joint Staff, he served as the Deputy Director of Operations J-3 for Combating Terrorism. He then served as the President, Marine Corps University at Quantico, VA. After being selected for promotion to Major General, he assumed command of the 1st Marine Division. In November of 2002, LtGen. Conway was promoted to his current rank and assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force. He commanded I MEF during two combat tours in Iraq.

His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

We're into our summer swing of fund-raisers and parades. We have concluded our fund-raising activities for the year and we did quite well with our flag program over the Memorial Day weekend thanks to the members who gave their time. We don't have the final figures as yet due to our Paymaster being under the weather for the past few days, however, it made up for the poor showing during A-Day parking. Also our detachment sold 275 raffle tickets generating an income of \$110.00.

We had a great Memorial Day Parade showing our Color Guard and the many members who showed up to ride our float and standing in formation at the cemetery for the Memorial. I also wish to thank **Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** for filling in for me at the front of the parade marching with the commanders from the other service groups. My knees were not co-operating so I chose to ride it out instead. This being the first year for the United Veterans of Doylestown sponsoring the parade, it went extremely well. I was amazed at how well-attended and crowded the parade route was. Don't recall seeing so many people before. **Past Commandant, Don Gee** was the force behind that effort, and was on top of things the whole way as well as being the Parade Marshall. Great job Don! Guess we'll have to let you do it again next year.

Now it's on to the 4th of July parade. Also thanks goes out to **Marine Eric Sanford** who provided the towing vehicle for the parades. We need the mem-

bers of our color guard to be in ship shape for the long haul ahead. Let's have another good showing. Also **Suzanne Pearce** will have a buffet waiting for us at the end of the parade which is always something to look forward to.

Good news for past and future "Marine of the Year" recipients. The League has authorized the issue of a medalion

for the detachment level. A motion was passed at our last detachment meeting that medalions be purchased and presented to recipients.

At the time of this writing, I'm preparing and looking forward to the Department Convention being held this year in Wilkes Barre 23 to 25 June. **Senior Vice Jim Powell and Junior Vice Budd Pearce, PC**, are expecting to attend as well.

Lastly on a sad note, it's my duty to inform you that the Marine Corps League has lost a real icon. **Jay Kacsan** passed away this month at the age of 89. Marine Kacsan was a WWII veteran and a member of the Marine Corps League for many, many years having held the title of Honorary Past National Commandant, Chief Devil Dog of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, was the Department of Pennsylvania Historian, and held several other committee positions within the Department.

Jay was always a fixture at department meetings, conventions, and attended the national conventions as well. I'll remember his mild mannered personality, his sense of humor, and the glass of scotch with the ever present bug clinging to the side. Rest in peace brother. We're gonna miss ya.

Semper Fi

Bill Miller
Bill Miller

IN MEMORIAM



JAY KACSAN
1917-2006
Honorary Past
National Commandant
&
Department Historian

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.

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!!" Items include: Moist Wipes--with and without aloe (some people are allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims--very popular; Hard Candy--no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars - in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins--in individual packages; Writing Tablets Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines - military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used are fine); Drink Mixes - individual envelopes. **Thanks for your continued support!**

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held June 14, 2006, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 15 members present including all officers except the Paymaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce**, **Past Commandants Don Gee**, and **Bob Sundling** and **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Both**.

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

The **Paymasters Report** will be delivered next month.

Sick Call: Paymaster **Bob Cody** is recuperating and will attend next month's meeting. **Past Commandant Bob Sundling's** father-in-law is scheduled to have an operation.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller thanked the members for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment strength at 48.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported the Detachment made \$2,366 from the Memorial Day Weekend Fund-Raiser. He also reported on the Flag Ceremony presentations conducted at Cold Spring Elementary School and displayed the "Thank You" notes and cards prepared by the school's students and sent to the Detachment. He also asked the Detachment members to consider what they would like to do for the Marine Corps Birthday this year--hold our own Birthday Ball, participate with another Detachment or hold a simple ceremony at the November Meeting. This will be discussed in depth at the next meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the Department of Pennsylvania or the National Headquarters since the last meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems and asked the members to review the Detachment ByLaws and make recommendations for updating them to him by the July meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Detachment had received no new requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

Public Relations Officer set June 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the June issue of *Listen Up!*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the unit took part in the Memorial Day Parade and is planning a trip to 8th & I Sts. during August.

NEW BUSINESS

4th of JULY PARADE--Detachment members taking part in the parade are to assemble in the Clemens Market parking lot in Chalfont at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

OLD BUSINESS

FLAG PRESENTATION--PR Officer Don Gee, PC, expressed disappointment in the failure of Detachment members to participate in the Flag Ceremony presentation at Cold Spring Elementary School. A non-Marine had to be enlisted to help with the presentation because no one from the Detachment volunteered to assist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE--A Memorial Day Parade "After-Action" meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, at the American Legion Post. All parade key personnel are invited to attend to discuss problems encountered this and recommend improvements for next year's parade.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE--A ceremony will held at noon on Saturday, June 24, at the Korean War Memorial at Bucks County Courthouse. All detachment members are invited to attend to support the Korean War veterans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on July 12, 2006.

Bumper Sticker of the Month:

**ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL...
THEN SOME BECOME MARINES**



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

Dear Veteran:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently learned that an employee took home electronic data from the VA, which he was not authorized to do and was in violation of established policies. The employee's home was burglarized and this data was stolen. The data contained identifying information including names, social security numbers, and dates of birth for up to 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, as well as some disability ratings. As a result of this incident, information identifiable with you was potentially exposed to others. It is important to note that the affected data did not include any of VA's electronic health records or any financial information.

Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the VA Inspector General's office, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter. Authorities believe it is unlikely the perpetrators targeted the items because of any knowledge of the data contents.

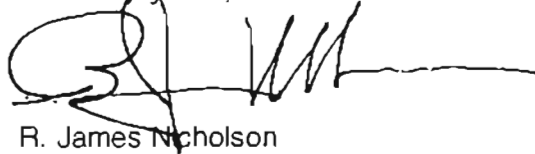
Out of an abundance of caution, however, VA is taking all possible steps to protect and inform our veterans. While you do not need to take any action unless you are aware of suspicious activity regarding your personal information, there are many steps you may take to protect against possible identity theft and we wanted you to be aware of these. Specific information is included in the enclosed question and answer sheet. For additional information, the VA has teamed up with the Federal Trade Commission and has a Web site (www.firstgov.gov) with information on this matter or you may call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636). The call center will operate from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (EDT), Monday-Saturday, as long as it is needed.

Beware of any phone calls, e-mails, and other communications from individuals claiming to be from VA or other official sources, asking for your personal information or verification of it. This is often referred to as information solicitation or "phishing." VA, other government agencies, and other legitimate organizations will not contact you to ask for or to confirm your personal information. If you receive such communications, they should be reported to VA at 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

We apologize for any inconvenience or concern this situation may cause, but we at VA believe it is important for you to be fully informed of any potential risk resulting from this incident. Again, we want to reassure you we have no evidence that your protected data has been misused. We will keep you apprised of any further developments. The men and women of the VA take our obligation to honor and serve America's veterans very seriously and we are committed to ensuring that this never happens again.

In accordance with current policy, the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to forward this letter because we do not have current addresses for all affected individuals. The IRS has not disclosed your address or any other tax information to us.

Sincerely yours,



R. James Nicholson

Enclosure

May 2006

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1- I'm a veteran, how can I tell if my information was compromised?

At this point there is no evidence that any missing data has been used illegally. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs is asking all veterans to be extra vigilant and to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions. If you notice unusual or suspicious activity, you should report it immediately to the financial institution involved and contact the Federal Trade Commission for further guidance.

2- What is the earliest date at which suspicious activity might have occurred due to this data breach?

The information was stolen from an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the month of May, 2006. If the data has been misused or otherwise used to commit fraud or identity theft crimes, it is likely that veterans may notice suspicious activity during the month of May.

3- I haven't noticed any suspicious activity in my financial statements, but what can I do to protect myself and prevent being victimized by credit card fraud or identity theft?

The Department of Veterans Affairs strongly recommends that veterans closely monitor their financial statements and visit the Department of Veterans Affairs special website on this, www.firstgov.gov or call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

4- Should I reach out to my financial institutions or will the Department of Veterans Affairs do this for me?

The Department of Veterans Affairs does not believe that it is necessary to contact financial institutions or cancel credit cards and bank accounts, unless you detect suspicious activity.

5- Where should I report suspicious or unusual activity?

The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following four steps if you detect suspicious activity:

Step 1 – Contact the fraud department of one of the three major credit bureaus:
Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

(Continued on reverse.)

BELLEAU WOOD REMEMBERED

By SSgt. Will Price

BELLEAU, France, May 28--In June 1918, on a small stretch of land that was the scene of one of the most savage and deadly battles the United States fought during the First World War, a pivotal chapter in Marine Corps history was written in blood.

Eighty-eight years later, on May 28, 2006, the Battle of Belleau Wood was commemorated in Belleau, France, by the United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, comprised of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and the United States Marine Corps Color Guard. The event was attended by the Commandant of the Marine Corps General Michael W. Hagee and more than 2,000 spectators, including soldiers, statesmen, and dignitaries, from both France and the United States.

The proceedings opened with a ceremony at France's Aisne-Marne Cemetery, located near the scene of the battle. The memorial service addresses were presented by General Hagee, and Chief of Staff of the French Army, Général Armée Bernard Thorette, who also conducted a wreath-laying ceremony with other American and French dignitaries.

In honor of the fallen, both American and French colors were raised to half-mast as French soldiers, a marching band, and the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment marched to the parade deck, centered in front of the 80-foot Memorial Chapel. A detachment of U.S. Air Force jets flew over the ceremony as the French Band played their national anthem, "The Marseillaise" and the Drum & Bugle Corps followed with, "The Star Spangled Banner." Flanking the parade deck were 2,289 tombstones, one for each U.S. service member who fell in defense of liberty at Belleau Wood.

"Being here makes you realize how tremendously important this battle was, to the Marine Corps of the time, and to America as well," said Staff Sgt. Bryan Duprey, Silent Drill Platoon, Platoon Sergeant. "It was a turning point for both the war and the Corps."

Continuing the program, French soldiers and Marines fired their rifles into the air, followed by Battle Color Detachment Bugler Sgt. Clint Owens' rendition of Taps. Owens donned a World War I Marine uniform and played while perched atop the towering Memorial Chapel as many in the audience bowed their heads in respectful silence.

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Application for Membership Marine Corps League

(Date) _____

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

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, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

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