

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

VOLUME XXII, Number 7

JULY 2009

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

Thousands More Now Eligible for NATO Medal

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission in Iraq has been added to a growing list of activities that qualify Marines and other U.S. service members for the award of the NATO Medal.

The NATO Training Implementation Mission and the follow-on NATO Mission Training-Iraq are the latest among eight operations that qualify U.S. service members for the international service medal, under a policy change approved by the Defense Department and announced last month.

While U.S. forces continue to earn the medal for service in the Balkans, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have qualified, and will continue to qualify, thousands of Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen for the service medal.

While a precise medal count from NATO was not available at press time, information from U.S. Central Command indicates that of the 35,000 U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan, 18,000 are assigned to the International Security Force-Afghanistan, a NATO organization, and most of them presumably qualify for the NATO Medal.

Sources expect that if President Barack Obama approves a troop building for Afghanistan, many of those forces will be assigned to ISFA, further increasing eligibility for the medal.

The medal eligibility window for ISFA opened June 1, 2003, and has no firm closing date.

The medal eligibility window for service with the NATO Implementation Training Mission and NATO Training

Mission in Iraq opened Aug. 18, 2004 and also has no firm closing date.

Troops generally qualify for the award of the NATO Medal if they serve in the qualifying area of operations with a unit under NATO command or in support of NATO operations for 30 consecutive days of operation.

The NATO training mission in Iraq is closely aligned with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

The NATO Medal comes in two designs, each established in the 1990s to recognize service in either the former Yugoslavia or Kosovo. Both have a common disk and pendant, but with different ribbons for each operation.

U.S. troops can wear one NATO Medal. Second and subsequent awards are indicated by a bronze star placed on the disk suspension ribbon or service ribbon.

On the uniform, the medal will be displayed after the United Nations Medal and before the Multinational Force and Observers Medal.

The policy changes will be incorporated into upcoming revisions of applicable Dod manuals and directives.

While NATO was established in 1949, it was not until the end of the Cold War and peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s that the U.S. government authorized its military members to accept and wear the NATO Medal.

NATO Medals are now authorized for the following operations and actions:

-- Operations in the former Yugoslavia: Deny Flight, Maritime Monitor, Maritime Guard and Sharp Guard, July 1, 1992, through Oct. 12, 1998.

-- Operations related to Kosovo: Allied Force, Joint Guardian, Allied Harbor, Sustain/Shining Hope and Nobel Anvil, Oct. 13, 1998, to a date to be determined.

-- Operation Eagle Assist: defense of U.S. and North American airspace following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Oct. 12, 2001-May 16, 2002.

-- Operation Active Endeavor: counterterrorist naval activities in the Mediterranean, Oct. 26, 2001, to a date to be determined.

-- Service in the Balkans: operations in the boundaries and airspace of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Republic of Yugoslavia (including Kosovo and Macedonia and Albania), Jan. 1, 2003, to a date to be determined.

-- International Security Force Afghanistan: NATO activities within the IAF operations plan, June 1, 2003, to a date to be determined.

-- NATO Training Implementation Mission in Iraq, Aug. 18, 2004, to a date to be determined.

-- NATO Training Mission in Iraq: Aug. 18, 2004, to a date to be determined.

4th OF JULY PARADE

Meet: 0830 at Town Center Shopping Center, Route 202, New Britain.

Uniform: MCL Cover, Black/Dress Blue Trousers, Short-Sleeve White Shirt, Ribbons & Badges



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our Memorial Day fund-raising weekend was successful again this year especially in view of the economy. Our A-Day parking fund-raiser struggled again this year, but it did help defray some of the costs of the Memorial Day fund-raiser. I think if we can get cooperation from the Bank and Fountain Head to use their parking lots across the street from the College we could do much more with the A-Day event. As always, I'd like

to say "Thank You" to all who came out to help make these fund raisers possible.

The Annual Doylestown Memorial Day Parade--which was the 143rd--again sponsored by the United Veterans of Doylestown, was a huge success and was bigger than last year. We had 80 units participate this year which was about 10 more than was anticipated. The cemetery Veterans Honor Ceremony was very well received and by all accounts the best that's been done to date. Thanks to our **Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb** on again doing a stellar job.

Jim McComb was also nominated for Department of Pennsylvania Marine of the Year by our detachment. The vote by the membership present was unanimous. The paperwork will be delivered to the Marine of the Year Society at the convention for consideration.

We sold 1,212 Department Youth and Veterans tickets and they will be delivered to the convention. We increased our tickets by 64% over last year and we have **Marine Ken Murray** to thank as he sold almost 750 tickets by himself. I'd like to give special thanks to Ken and **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** for their outstanding efforts to help the Detachment.

We have a few things coming up. First is the Independence Day parade in Chalfont. Everyone should meet at the Town Center on 202 South in New Britain at 0830 on the 4th of July. If you need further information please contact **Chaplain Budd Pearce**.

That's it for now, enjoy your summer.

Semper Fi,

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Registered individuals will be mailed summary results when two independent research initiatives are complete.



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES McCOMB

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES

ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM MICKELSON

QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER

CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
VINCENT J. HAGAN

WEB SERGEANT
JAMES POWELL

JUNE DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held June 11, 2009, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 510 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling**; **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year Jim McComb**.

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

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented by the Adjutant/Paymaster and was unanimously accepted.

New Members: Roy G. Weigand (Doylestown, PA); **Jacob T. Kopp** (New Hope, PA), who is transferring from the Lynchburg Area Detachment (VA); and **James F. McStay** (Chalfont, PA), who applied for dual membership; were unanimously accepted into membership.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported he will be attending the Department Convention. He stated he has copies of the proposed ByLaws changes and reminded the members about the active duty (free membership) recruiting program being conducted by the Department. The Commandant also reported the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs will be holding a veterans expo on June 16 in Harrisburg.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb reported the Detachment strength at 60 members including 29 Life Members, 26 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Life Member. There is one member delinquent and two members on active duty.

Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported that the raffle ticket sales to date.

The **Judge Advocate** reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

The **Adjutant/Paymaster** reported the Detachment had again been invited to participate in the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont and Nockamixon Day festivities in Revere in September.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the last meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** set June 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the July issue of "Listen Up!" He has been invited to be a member of the New Britain Township Veterans Memorial Committee. The committee will meet on June 25 and the P-R Officer will report on it at the July Meeting.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported on the May Meeting sales.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the next highway clean-up was held on Saturday, May 16. Only five people participated. A minimum of six is needed to do the job, he stated. If we do not have that minimum for the next clean-up, we need to consider dropping the Detachment from the program. The next highway clean-up will be in July.

Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines unit will be held its "Coin Toss" fund-raiser last month in New Hope.

Fund Raiser Coordinator Budd Pearce reported on the incomes from both A-Day Parking at Delaware Valley College and the Memorial Day Fund-Raiser at the State Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys).

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce reported the Pistol Match was held May 29-31. Standings at the match have not been released yet. The Department Rifle Match is scheduled for September.

Parades Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the Detachment had our float in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade and we were prepared for the July 4 Parade in Chalfont-New Britain. The Detachment will muster at 8:30 a.m. in the New Britain Shopping Center on Rt. 202.

NEW BUSINESS

Department Convention--A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to donate \$50 to the P. W. Milano Detachment to help defray expenses for the Hospitality Room at the Convention.

Department Marine of the Year--A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to nominate Detachment Marine of the Year Jim McComb for Department Marine of the Year.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Sergeant at Arms Sundling reminded the members about the "Goodies for the Troops" program conducted by his wife Peggy and thanked those who contributed for their donations of items and money.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **UVD Parade Marshal** reported this year's Memorial Day Parade had 80 units and announced the After-Action Meeting of the Parade Committee would be held on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Post.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Commandant Powell announced he was initiating a new addition to the monthly meetings. Each month a Detachment member will be selected to give a verbal biography of his life so the other members of the Detachment can get to know him/her. **Senior Vice Commandant McComb** gave his biography at this meeting and the **Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee, PC**, was drafted to give his at the July Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m.

FOURTH OF JULY: The Initial Costs of Freedom

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men

of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly.

He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of **Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge,** and **Middleton.**

At the battle of Yorktown, **Thomas**

Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged **General George Washington** to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free!

It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics, and baseball games

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

CAPRIO, Paul	midupe@aol.com
CODY, Bob	codyrj@att.net
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DOHERTY, Joe	joedog7@verizon.net
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	sundling@tiniusolsen.com
WALDRON, Mike	waldron@quigleyco.com
WIMER, Lee	leewimer@aol.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION
24-27 JUNE**

**INDEPENDENCE
DAY PARADE
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 AUGUST**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



COLOR GUARD--The Central Bucks Detachment Color Guard leading Doylestown's 143rd Annual Memorial Day Parade.



DETACHMENT FLOAT--Detachment members aboard the long-serving float.

The Borough of Doylestown celebrated its 143rd Annual Memorial Day Parade this year with both record spectators and record participants. Of the 80 units in this year's parade, the Central Bucks Detachment and its members again were a key part of the observance. In addition to the members aboard the Detachment float and the Young Marines Unit marching smartly behind it, **Chaplain Budd Pearce** conducted the Memorial Day Flag-Raising at Central Bucks West's War Memorial Field, the Detachment Color Guard led by **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** led the parade, and **Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb** officiated the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Doylestown Cemetery. Estimates put parade viewers at 22,000 surpassing last year's 20,000 estimate. The Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Ceremony are sponsored by the United Veterans of Doylestown. The Detachment is scheduled to participate next in the Chalfont-New Britain Annual 4th of July Parade.

Photos submitted by Jim McComb



PARADE CONTINGENT--Detachment members aboard the float followed by the Young Marines Unit.



YOUNG MARINES UNIT--Our Young Marines Unit strutting their stuff while marching behind the Detachment float.

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Iris P. Fisher
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Vice President

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**Third Marine Division
Association**

The Chosin Few



Central Bucks Detachment,
Marine Corps League

PURPOSE OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

To preserve the traditions, promote the interest, and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that Service together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

To hold sacred the memory and the history of men and women who have given their lives to the nation.

To foster love for the principles that they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.

To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.

To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, uniformed and civilian, as well as to their surviving spouses and orphans.

League members know a special bond of comradeship unique to those who have worn the Marine Emblem. The members look after one another. They observe national holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day and days of special interest to Marines such as the Marine Corps birthday, the anniversary of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and the day the Fourth Marine Brigade entered Belleau Wood.

The League performs some of its most important service on the local level through programs of benefit to the communities.

Many detachments recognizing a need, embark on special programs to help advance their towns and cities.

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET

**LIFE MEMBER
BLAZER CREST**



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

\$55.00

**DETACHMENT
T-SHIRT**



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

**DETACHMENT
LICENSE PLATE**



\$10.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact **Quartermaster COREY FISHER**

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

**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 **\$35.00** 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**