

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

ARMY WON'T FIELD DEADLIER MARINE CORPS ROUND

Special Operations Command and the Marine Corps are fielding a deadlier 5.56mm round, but the Army says soldiers can't have it. Instead, the Army is holding on to its dream of environmentally friendly ammunition.

Army ammunition officials are on their third attempt at redesigning the Cold War-era M855 5.56mm round by adding a better-performing, lead-free bullet. The service had to halt the M855A1 Lead-Free Slug program in July when the new bullet failed to perform under high temperatures. The setback delayed fielding by nearly a year.

The newest version of the green round is in the live-fire test phase, and Army officials said they are confident it will be ready for combat use by June.

The Marine Corps, however, doesn't share this confidence. The Corps has dropped its plans to field the Army's M855A1 and approved the new SOST round for Marines to use in Afghanistan. SOST, short for Special Operations Science and Technology, is SOCom's enhanced 5.56mm round. It isn't green, but it is deadlier than the current M855 round and it's available now, Marine officials say.

The Corps' decision to purchase about 2 million SOST rounds in September illustrates the growing frustration with the M855's performance on the modern battlefield.

The M855 was developed in the 1970s and approved as an official NATO round in 1980. In recent years, troops have widely criticized it. They complain it is

ineffective against barriers such as car windshields and often travels right through unarmored insurgents, with less than lethal effects.

Jason Gillis, a former Army Staff Sergeant, first witnessed the M855's shortcomings in 2004 on the streets of Baghdad. He was a squad leader with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, on patrol when a vehicle began speeding toward his unit.

After several warnings, "both of our M249s opened up instantly, forming a crisscross pattern of tracer that met at the vehicles engine compartment and windshield. Within seconds, riflemen and

grenadiers were executing magazine changes while the vehicle kept rolling and finally stopped 10 meters from my lead troops," Gillis recalled in an e-mail to *Army Times*. He is now a freelance writer focusing on military small-arms issues.

"Assuming the driver was most likely riddled beyond recognition, we were all astounded to see the driver emerge from the vehicle completely unscathed," Gillis wrote. "Closer inspection revealed that the M855 ammunition had failed to effectively penetrate the vehicle's windshield despite the fact more than 400 rounds were expended at extremely close range and on target."

British Soldier Breaks Sniper Record

Corporal of Horse Craig Harrison, a British Army sniper, now holds the record for the farthest shot (1.5 miles), which took down two Taliban gunnemen in Afghanistan.

A British soldier dubbed "The Silent Assassin" has broken a distance record after taking down two targets from a mile and a half away.

Cpl. Harrison killed two Taliban machine gunners in Afghanistan from a distance of 8,120 feet, *Sky News* reported.

"The first round hit a machine gunner in the stomach and killed him outright. He went straight down and didn't move," the 35-year-old said of the incident, which took place in November 2009.

"The second insurgent grabbed the weapon and turned as my second shot hit him in the side. He went down, too. They were both dead."

Harrison was nearly 3,000 feet beyond the effective range of his British-built L115A3 Long Range Rifle.

The powerful weapon is reportedly only effective up to 4,921 feet, the *Daily Mail* reported, which is less than a mile.

"Conditions were perfect, no wind, mild weather, clear visibility," Harrison said, according to *Sky News*.

The father of one child from Gloucestershire in Southwest England pulled off the impressive shots while protecting his commanding officer and several Afghan soldiers, who were on patrol when they were attacked in the Helmand Province.

The sniper's shots broke a record previously held by **Cpl. Rob Furlong**, a Canadian Forces soldier, who in 2005 killed

(See **SNIPER**, Page 2)



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our Memorial Day fund raising weekend was very successful again this year. I was somewhat surprised in lieu of the economy we are currently in. I'd like to say "Thank You" to all who came out to help make this fund raiser possible.

The Annual Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the United Veterans of Doylestown, which was the 144th, was again a huge success. The cemetery Veterans Honor Ceremony was very well done and by all accounts the best that's been done to date. Special thanks go out to **Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee, Marine Jim McComb** and **Doreen Stratton**. Without these people the parade would not be the extraordinary success that it has become.

We sold 1,136 Department Youth and Veterans tickets and they will be delivered to the convention. This was a slight decrease from last year, but was a good number for our Detachment. We have members **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** and his sons, Associates **David and Stephen Gentile** to thank for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our Detachment. They sold more than 800 tickets for us.

Upcoming we have the Independence Day Parade on July 3, in Chalfont. Everyone should meet at the Town Center on 202 South in New Britain at 0830 on Saturday, the 3rd of July. If you need

further information please contact **Chaplain Budd Pearce**.

I'll be attending the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Conventions in the next few weeks and I'll be reporting on them in my next column.

That's it for now, enjoy your summer.

Semper Fi,

RVN Deaths Listed by State/Town

The link below which is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bios and other information.

It is a very interesting link, and those who served in that timeframe and lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

First click on a state. then when it opens. a name. then it should show you a picture of the person or at least his bio and medals.

**[www.virtualwall.org/
iStates.htm](http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm)**

SNIPER

From Page 1

an Al Qaeda gunman from about 7,972 feet away.

Sgt. Brian Kremer of the United States Army held the record in 2004 with a shot in Iraq that struck its target from about 7,545 feet.

JUNE DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held May 12, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 15 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling**, and **Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

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

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and was unanimously accepted.

New Members: Marines **Joseph M. Kier** of Hatfield and **John J. Spillane Jr.** of Warminster were accepted as a Regular Members.

Sick Call: Marine **Chuck Flanagan** is in Room 502 at the Fox Rehab Center in Warrington and Marine **Bill Jerrom** is recuperating at home.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported he and **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** will be attending both the Department Convention (June 23-26) and the National Convention (Aug. 8-14) this year. He mentioned there are 41 proposed National ByLaws changes to be dealt with at the National Convention. He also reminded the members the Department is still looking for WWII Veterans to honor at the Department Convention.

Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported the Detachment strength at 66 members including 29 Life Members, 28 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 6 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He is working on the Detachment Logo and expects to have it completed by next meeting.

Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile discussed the results of Department Raffle Ticket sales to date and a the plan to hold a Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Applebee's in Newtown on Saturday, July 17, from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Cost is \$6.00 per person (see Page 5). Monies for tickets sold can be turned in to him at the July Meeting or at Applebee's on the 17th. He is looking for volunteers to help at the site, collecting tickets, etc. If you can help out, give him a call. He is also beginning to work on the Birthday Ball and will canvass initial sites and report results at the July Meeting.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Detachment had received a notification from the Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans about the 25th Annual Donald W. Jones Flag Memorial on Friday, June 11. On Tuesday, June 15, the Military Community Network of Bucks County will hold a seminar at Delaware Valley College from 9 a.m. until noon. He also reported the Detachment had forwarded the names of six WWII veterans to **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrichs** for special recognition during the Department's Convention.

Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported he had a request for the Color Guard for the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported Detachment is registered to participate in the 4th of July Parade (which will be held on Saturday, July 3) in Chalfont. The first set of commemorative bricks will be dedicated at Memorial Park following the parade. He set June 20 as the deadline for submission of material for the next *LISTEN UP!*

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported sales of \$52.00 at the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Day Fund Raiser Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, reported the results of the fund raiser. He thanked all involved in making it a successful event, especially **Marine Don Parzanese Jr.**, who

devoted the most hours to manning the table during the four-day fund raiser. **Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported he had a variety of Marine Corps posters available to anyone who wants them. He reported the Unit is seeking additional sponsors to help support the unit since they can no longer hold their traditional "coin toss" fund raiser. The Unit is also still planning a trip to Washington in August. Anyone interested in participating should contact him as soon as possible.

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Pearce announced plans to hold the next highway clean-up during July.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Pearce reported on the recent Pistol Match and reminded the members about the Department Rifle Match in September.



CERTIFICATE--Gee (left) receiving award from McComb.

NEW BUSINESS

Marine Jim McComb, representing Doylestown VFW Post 175, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to **Adjuant/Paymaster Don Gee** for his "exceptional management of the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade for the past five years."

Commandant Powell appointed the annual Audit Committee composed of the **Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant Gentile** and **Marine Ed Hoth, PDC**. The Committee will

conduct the audit prior to the July Meeting.

Web Sergeant Powell reported on funding the Detachment WebSite. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse the Web Sergeant for up to \$150.00 in WebSite expenses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Powell announced the National Marine Corps League Auxiliary was conducting its annual fund- raiser and asked the Detachment to purchase the organization's raffle tickets for \$20. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Senior Vice Commandant Jones proposed the Detachment provide formal recognition for a job well done to a Newtown Township Police Officer who refused to bend to political pressure to rescind a ticket he issued to a politician. **Commandant Powell** requested Senior Vice Commandant Jones provide a formal written recommendation to the Commandant to consider making an appropriate award from the Detachment.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reminded the members about donations for the troops overseas.

Commandant Powell offered two different fund-raising raffle tickets the Devil Dogs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**1ST DAY OF SUMMER
21 JUNE**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
23-26 JUNE**

**4TH OF JULY PARADE
3JULY**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
14 JULY**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
8-14 AUGUST**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
11 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
6 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
8 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**GRANDPARENTS DAY
12 SEPTEMBER**

ADMIT ONE



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League
"VETERANS SUPPORT BREAKFAST"
Saturday, July 17, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT
2 West Rd., Newtown, PA 18940
Ph: 215-497-3477
DONATION: \$6.00 Per Person
Proceeds Support Veterans Programs

Seller: _____

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CROSS OF HONOR: A Response to Separation of Church and State

Xanthippe rang the bell and listened to muffled sounds on the other side of the door until it opened. She looked into air, then down at a frail elderly black man in a wheelchair.

"Mr. Ralph Carver Martin?" She showed her badge. "Agent Rudd, ACLU."

"Call me Digger," the man said.

"What?"

"That's the nickname my buddies gave me, because I could dig a foxhole faster than any other man in our company. I know what it sounds like, so don't bother saying the word."

"I wasn't going to. Did you receive our letter?"

"About my Navy Cross? Yeah, I got the letter and tried to use it. But it wouldn't flush down the toilet."

Xanthippe frowned. "This is a very serious

matter. In accordance with House and Senate Rule 1682, commonly called the Ultimate Separation of Church and State Act, all religious symbols on public property and/or financed by public funds are herewith banned. That includes military decorations in the shape of a cross or anything resembling one. Even your Navy Cross. The government appreciates the medal's sentimental value to you and is prepared to compensate you --"

"They ain't really there, you know," Digger interrupted.

"What do you mean?"

"The words 'separation of church and state.' They ain't in the Constitution. **Thomas Jefferson** wrote 'em in a letter, and he didn't have nothing to do with making the Constitution."

Xanthippe sighed impatiently. "I don't want to argue over something the United States Supreme Court settled long ago. May I come in?"

"Why not?"

Digger wheeled his chair aside and she stepped into the small room, glancing around at the sparse furnishings and few personal items.

"It ain't much, but I call it home."

"Sufficient lodging for an obsolete relic that is no longer of use to society," Xanthippe paraphrased from the Official Doctrine.

Digger snorted.

"Please surrender the Cross so that it may be properly disposed of."

"You want to hear how I got it?"

"No."

"Didn't think so, you not being among The Crucified."

She looked bewildered.

"Jesus was put on the Cross and the Cross was put on me. Either way, it's Crucifixion. The General who pinned it on me said it was a sacred ceremony. Also said it should've been the Medal of Honor. But you people would probably find a way to take that away from me, too."

"I don't make the laws," she said. "But we all must obey them. Where is the medal?"

Digger's jaw tightened stubbornly.

"Supposing I don't give it to you?"

Xanthippe drew herself stiffly upright.

"I have two officers downstairs who are experts at searching every possible hiding place. And they don't clean up the mess when they're finished."

Digger's shoulders slumped. "Looks like you got me over a barrel. Guess the quickest way to get shut of you is to let you have it. Look in the top bureau drawer over there, with my other war souvenirs."

"That is a wise decision. The sooner I can close your case, the better for all of us."

Xanthippe crossed the room, not noticing Digger wheel his chair out the door while her back was to him. The bureau top was covered with pictures of Digger, his wife and family, which she ignored as she pulled out the drawer.

The medal lay on top of a clutter of other objects. It seemed stuck to something when she tried to pick it up. She gave a hard yank, then stared blankly at the attached steel ring and pin.

Digger, out in the hall, sat with his back to the wall beside the door.

"Sometimes an obsolete relic can still be useful," he mused, as the grenade's explosion shook the wall.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



LEADING THE PARADE--Central Bucks Detachment Color Guard led the more than 80-unit parade.



DETACHMENT FLOAT--Our patriotic float was one of the first elements in the parade.



ABOARD THE FLOAT--Detachment members greeting parade spectators.



CEMETERY CEREMONY--Central Bucks Detachment rendering honors during Memorial Ceremony at Doylestown Cemetery.

*Photos submitted
by Don Parzanese*

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

LIFE MEMBER BLAZER CREST



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

DETACHMENT T-SHIRT

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

\$15.00

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**