

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIV, Number 7

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Commandant: BUDD PEARCE

Editor: DON H. GEE

VA to Expand Housing for Homeless Vets & Families

WASHINGTON--The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to develop housing opportunities for homeless and at-risk Veterans by adding 34 VA locations across the country. This strategy will increase the Department's available beds by more than 5,000. VA currently has 15,000 transitional beds available to homeless Veterans.

"This initiative will significantly support our efforts to eliminate Veteran homelessness and improve quality of life for Veterans," said **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki**. "We have a moral obligation to ensure

that Veterans and their families have access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet."

Culminating two years of work to end homelessness among Veterans, a recent strategic study, the Building Utilization Review and Repurposing (BURR) initiative, identified unused and underused buildings at existing VA property with the potential to develop new housing opportunities for homeless or at-risk Veterans and their families through public-private partnerships and VA's enhanced-use lease (EUL) program.

Under the EUL program, VA retains ownership of the land and can determine and control its reuse.

Additional opportunities identified through BURR will include housing for returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and their families, assisted living for elderly Veterans and continuum of living residential communities.

The project will support VA's goal of ending Veteran homelessness by providing safe, affordable, cost effective, and sustainable housing for Veterans on

Please see HOUSING, Page 5

Marine Corps to Replace SAW with Automatic Rifle

Marine infantry squads will replace their M249 light machine gun with a highly accurate, auto rifle geared for fast-moving assaults. In late May, **Gen. James Amos**, Commandant of the Marine Corps, approved a plan to field the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle to all Marine infantry battalions.

The lightweight auto rifle, made by Heckler & Koch, is a variant of the 5.56mm H&K 416. It weighs just under eight pounds unloaded -- almost 10 pounds less than the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

The decision comes after the Corps fielded 458 M27s to five battalions as they prepared for upcoming deployments to Afghanistan.

"We wanted to get through the limited fielding and get the feedback be-

fore we moved ahead with the full fielding," said **Charles Clark III**, who oversees infantry weapons requirements at the Corps' Combat Development and Integration office in Quantico, VA.

"The decision is made. It's happening," Clark said.

Program officials plan to spend about \$13 million to field all 4,476 M27s by late summer 2013, Clark said. In addition to the guns, that money also pays for spare parts, tools and gauges, he said.

Marine gunners trained with the new M27s all the way through their pre-deployment evaluation.

"They performed really well," Clark said. "They were hitting more targets and expending less ammo than they

would have with the SAW."

Former Commandant **Gen. James Conway** had concerns about replacing the M249 with a magazine-fed automatic rifle. His main worry was how the M27 would make up for the loss of suppressive firepower Marine gunners would give up when they went into battle without the belt-fed M249 machine gun.

Program officials acknowledge that a 30-round magazine cannot produce the high volume of fire the M249 is capable of when loaded with a 200-round belt.

And because gunners cannot change out over-heating barrels on the M27, they will likely keep sustained rates of

Please see SAW, Page 4



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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

Here comes the 4th of July parade! Thanks to everyone for making our Memorial Day fundraiser and parade such a success. We made a little more than \$3,000 and gave out a lot of flags. The turn out for the parade was outstanding and our float looked good. We are having the lights fixed on the float and will be discussing further repairs at the July meeting.

Speaking of July, we have a highway clean-up scheduled for July 16. For anyone who has not been out before, we meet at the "Back to the 50's" restaurant (Edison Furlong Rd. & 263) at 8 a.m. for breakfast and then at about 9 we head out and clean up the trash along 313 between 263 & 202. It only takes about 45 minutes to one hour if we get a good turn out of members. We need to

have at least six members to get this job done. I look forward to seeing you there.

There is not much else going on right now, but we still need you to come out to the meetings. At the July meeting we will have all the news from the Department Convention and we'll get news about the National Convention at our August meeting. I hope to see everyone at these meetings and don't forget to see if you can find us some more Marines who would like to join our group therapy sessions.

See you at the June 13th meeting!

Semper Par

Budd Pearce

LISTEN UP! Issues Needed

Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell is seeking copies of *LISTEN UP!* to complete our website archives.

If you can provide copies of the

November 1966, July 1998, September 2001, and/or November 2002 issues, please contact him at: 215-862-6280 or e-mail usmc80@comcast.net.

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 or 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, Marines, for your continued support!

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 June 8, 2011, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown.

There were 17 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Jim Powell, and Bob Sundling; Past Department of New Jersey/Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Jack Gentile.**

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

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reported the All-Divisions Detachment was seeking donations to purchase flags for the Patriot Guard at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. The Department of the Army is responsible for the flags but to date none have been received. Flags for each branch of service is needed at a total cost of \$483.00.

*He announced there will be a "Military Appreciation Night" on July 8 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Free admission to active and military and Veterans with military I.D.

*He also reported that Mess Sergeant Paul (Doc) Waldron had been experiencing health problems and would like someone to share the Mess Sergeant duties with him since he cannot attend all meetings.

*He thanked the members who helped disassemble the float after the parade after the Memorial Day Parade.

*He also reminded the members about the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont. He requested the members meet at 0830 in the parking lot to help prepare the float.

Senior Vice Commandant Joe Kier reported the Detachment strength at 67 including 28 Life Members, 31 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are three members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile reported the Detachment had sold 1,009 Department raffle tickets.

*He also reported significant donations received during ticket sales events.

*The Detachment approved the Water Wheel as the site for this year's Marine Corps Birthday observance which will be held on Nov. 12. Cost will be \$40 per person with the Detachment subsidizing costs above \$30 for Detachment members.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Rose Program fund-raiser in Chalfont raised only \$15.30.

Judge Advocate Don Parzanese Sr., PC, reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr. reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

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

Quartermaster Corey Fisher, reported that Quartermaster had \$26.00 in sales last month.

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

*The Detachment received a plaque with a photo of the basketball team we sponsored with our donation to the Doylestown Athletic Association.

Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell is also attempting to identify members of the Detachment who have EXACTLY 25 years of membership this year. Anyone with knowledge about this, please contact him ASAP.

*A Department ByLaws change to be dealt with at the Department Convention is increasing the

Department Districts from five to ten.

*Another proposed change is to reduce voting from one vote per Delegated to one vote per Detachment.

*He also announced several fund-raising activities by other Detachments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Joe Kier reported about the Department Pistol Match. Commandant Pearce was the team's high shooter.

*He asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a rifle match on Aug. 16 in Altoona. Anyone interested should contact him as soon as possible.

Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines will be traveling to Gettysburg the following weekend. He invited members of the Detachment to take part in the trip.

*The Unit will be holding its "Boot Camp" next month. He thanked **Chaplain Don Parzanese** for assisting the Unit in obtaining material for the trip.

25th Anniversary Committee Chair Joe Kier reported on plans for the proposed Golf Tournament fund-raiser. He will have full details at the July Meeting.

*He also presented a preliminary Detachment Patch which will be finalized in time for the 25th anniversary.

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported on the highway clean-up on July 16.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and unanimously approved to donate \$50 to Jack Gentile for fuel expense for Memorial Day & 4th of July Parades.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to obtain an estimate of costs to make safety repairs to the float.

A motion was made and unanimously approved for the Detachment to reimburse the Detachment Commandant for lodging and travel mileage when representing the Detachment at Quarterly Meetings and Department Conventions.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

The Commandant reminded the membership that, in addition to being D-Day during WWII, June 6 is the anniversary of the birth of the Marine Corps League.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13.

SAW

from Page 1

fire at nearly 40 rounds per minute for 600 rounds on days with mild temperatures. They will have to reduce that to 28 rounds when the temps climb past 100 degrees.

But accuracy seems to be the key to the M27's effectiveness, Clark said. The auto rifle is already showing signs that it could be twice as accurate as the Marine M16A4.

Gunners shooting the M27 have been getting first-round hits on targets beyond 300 meters much more consistently than they have in the past with the M249, Clark said.

"In the training, the Marines were employing it in the semi-auto mode until they closed within 100 meters or so of the enemy and then switch to full auto to provide very accurate high rates of fire," he added. "We don't lose the ability to gain fire superiority."

But time will tell.

Currently, the Marines have two battalions of M27s in Afghanistan and another three preparing to deploy. Marine battalions will also keep nine M249s per rifle company to allow commanders to beef up firepower when needed.

The M27s will be equipped with the Marine Corps SAW Day Optic, made by Trijicon. They will also have an AN/PEQ 16A laser pointer and integrated white light, Harris bipod legs and a vertical forward grip.

Marine officials selected the H&K

weapon in October 2009 over two prototypes from Colt Defense LLC and one made by FN Herstal. Colt makes the M4 and FN makes the M249.

The M27 uses a short-stroke gas piston, which proved more reliable than the M16/M4's direct gas system in an Army dust test in late 2007.

Marine weapons officials also maintain that the improved 30-round magazine that the Army developed for the M4 carbine and the M16 is working well in the M27.

Some are concerned that M27 gunners are not being issued higher-capacity magazines. Program officials have not ruled this out as a possibility for the future, but for now, gunners will carry about 22 of the standard 30-round magazines for a basic load.

"We are looking at the potential for high-capacity magazines, but right now the new service magazine with the brown follower is working really well," Clark said. "We have had no issues."

Check Out Our
Detachment Web Site
at:

www.mclcb.org

HOUSING

from Page 1

a priority basis.

To expedite the project, contractors will be asked to develop multiple sites in a region. VA will hold a one-day national Industry Forum in Chicago for interested organizations on July 13, 2011. For information regarding the forum contact **VA_BURR@va.gov**.

Supportive housing projects are planned for homeless Veterans and their families at 23 VA sites: Tuskegee, AL; Long Beach and Menlo Park, CA; Bay Pines, FL; Dublin, GA; Hines and North Chicago, IL; Danville and Fort

Wayne, IN; Leavenworth, KS; Perry Point, MD; Bedford, Brockton and Northampton, MA; Battle Creek, MI; Minneapolis and St. Cloud, MN; Fort Harrison, MT; Castle Point, NY; Chillicothe and Dayton, OH; and Spokane and Vancouver, WA.

Under the enhanced-use lease agreements, Veterans will receive senior and non-senior independent living and assisted living at eleven VA sites: Newington, CT; Augusta, GA; Marion, IL Topeka, KS; Togus, ME; Grand Island, NE; Big Springs and Kerrville, TX; Salem, VA; Martinsburg, WV; and Cheyenne, WY.

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
MARINES ON THE NET**

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**SCHEDULE
OF
EVENTS**

**FIRST DAY
OF SUMMER
21 JUNE**

**DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION
22-26 JUNE**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
4 JULY**

**TRI-MUNICIPAL
PARADE
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
13 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
10 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
5 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOTS DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**GRANDPARENTS
DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
14 SEPTEMBER**

MEMORIAL DAY SCRAPBOOK



DYNAMIC DUO--Senior Vice Commandant Joe Kier (r) and Marine Bob Duff at the State Store.

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEK
FUND-RAISER**

at the

STATE STORE

in

DOYLESTOWN



FUND-RAISING--Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr. (r) and Marine Gary Smith manning the table at the State Store.



OUR NEWLY PROMOTED Sergeant Bob Sundling before the parade.



LA FAMIGLIA PARZANESE (less one) together for the first time in 15 years. They are (l-r) Richard, Pat, Don Sr., and Don Jr. Brother Tony couldn't make the commute.

*Photos
by
Suzanne
Pearce*



DETACHMENT MEMBERS ABOARD THE PARADE FLOAT

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**