



# LISTEN UP!

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636**

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XII, Number 6

JUNE 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

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## 50th ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES SET

WASHINGTON--Wreath layings and opening ceremonies on June 25 will be the first in a series of events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

The commemoration, authorized by Congress and conducted by DoD, will thank and honor Korean War veterans and their families; especially those who lost loved ones.

Over a four-year period, more than 35 commemorative events are scheduled to show that a "Grateful Nation Remembers" their service and sacrifice.

From 2000 to 2003, events will take place throughout the United States, Republic of Korea and the Pacific region, reflecting the U. S. military, its allies and the United Nations' concerted efforts during the Korean War.

This year's commemorative events include:

**June 25--**Commemoration Wreathlayings and Opening Ceremonies - Seoul, Korea/Washington, DC.

**June 28--**Task Force Smith Commemoration - Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**July 5--**Twilight Tattoo - Ellipse, Washington, DC.

**Sept. 13--**Breakout of Pusan Perimeter Commemoration - Teagu, Republic of Korea.

**Sept. 15-17--**Inchon Landing/Pusan Pe-

rimeter Commemoration - Norfolk, VA.  
**Nov. 11--**Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Commemoration - Seoul, Republic of Korea.

**Nov. 27--**Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Commemoration - Camp Pendleton/San Diego, CA.

**Dec. 12--**Hungnam Redeployment and Evacuation Commemoration - Navy Memorial, Washington, DC.

In addition to these events, local commemorative groups throughout the nation will recognize veterans and their families by hosting local events and supporting school programs that teach the history of the Korean War.

The commemorative community program was the foundation for the World War II commemoration where more than 7,800 groups actively participated.

The commemorative community program continues during the Korean War commemoration.

Local programs will use educational products developed by the anniversary committee--maps, posters, books, fact sheets, stickers, flags, etc.--and Korean War veterans to help tell people of all ages about the Korean War.

For more information about the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, call (703) 604-0820 or visit the website at <http://korea50.army.mil>.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT  
1930 ON 14 JUNE 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315  
NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Thanks to everyone who helped out on the A-Day parking, it was a financial success! This would not be possible without the hard work of our **Judge Advocate Bob Momorella**. Bob went through all of the dealing with the surrounding business owners to insure the Central Bucks Detachment got the use of their parking lots for this fundraiser. We didn't get a couple of the lots we had last year due to various reasons, none that we had anything to do with. We hopefully will get a few of those lots back next year. I also noticed a lot of the people that live along that stretch of 202 were renting out their front lawns this year. That has not happened very often in the past and may have something to do with the lower proceeds than in past years. Although we made less than we did last year, we did VERY well indeed! Bob worked very hard for us and you

## Which of the Services is the Best?

A soldier, a sailor, an airman, and a Marine got into an argument about which service is "The Best." The arguing became so heated, that they eventually ended up killing each other. Soon, they found themselves at "The Pearly Gates." They meet St. Peter and decide that only he would be the ultimate source of truth and honesty, so they ask him: "St. Peter, which branch of the American Armed Forces is the best?" St. Peter instantly replies: "I can't answer that. But, I will ask God what He thinks the next time I see Him."

Some time later, the four warriors see St. Peter again and remind him of the

guys came through and worked hard for him. Thanks, Marines! Without the support of our members, we would be unable to do fundraisers like this one, and you guys can always be counted on to be there when the Detachment needs you.

Speaking of fundraisers, we have another event coming up this summer. The Detachment is going to be working with Town & Country Players again this year. If you remember the last couple of years we have been selling tickets for one of their shows, parking cars and handling refreshments at the play. The Detachment has been making some money doing this. It was voted at the May Meeting that we participate in this again. The final date of the show will be announced soon. **Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC**, will let us know all about what's up at the June Meeting.

question and ask if he was able to find the answer. Suddenly, a sparkling white dove lands on St. Peter's shoulder. In the dove's beak is a note with glistening gold dust. St. Peter says to the four men, "Your answer from the Boss... Let's see what he says." St. Peter opens the note, trumpets blare, gold dust drifts into the air, harps play crescendos and St. Peter begins to read it aloud to the four young men:

MEMORANDUM TO SOLDIERS,  
SEAMEN, MARINES, AND AIRMEN  
SUBJECT: Which Military Service is  
The Best.

"Gentlemen, all the Branches of the Armed Services are 'Honorable and Noble.' Each of you serves your country well and with distinction. Being a member of the American Armed Forces represents a special calling warranting special respect, tribute and dedication. Be proud of that."

Respectfully submitted,

**GOD**

USMC (Ret.)

That's about all I have for now. Sorry about this very short column, but I have been moving into a new house and have not had the time this month to pay much attention to what is going on. I will be inviting the Detachment to my new place for a burger cookout sometime in the near future. The date and time will be announced as soon as "The Boss" lets me know when it will be.

See you at the June Meeting where we will be talking about how good we looked in the Memorial Day Parade.

Semper Fidelis,

*Budd Plance*

## **2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**  
**0930-MAY 29**  
**C. B. WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**JUNE 14**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**  
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**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**JULY 12**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**AUGUST 9**



## **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.



# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, was held May 10, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 12 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant and the Chaplain. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Director of Public Relations** and **Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth** and **Marine of the Year Wil Haas**.

The Minutes of the April Meeting were unanimously approved.

A new member, **Rick Cunningham**, was unanimously accepted for membership.

**Sick Call: Marine Jim Marckstein** was in the hospital but is now at home and doing better.

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

**Commandant Budd Pearce** announced the new VA Outpatient Clinic will open at the Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove, on May 22.

In the absence of **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller**, the Junior Vice Commandant reported the Detachment strength at 52 members: 13 Life members; 35 Regular members and 4 Associate members. There are 2 Delinquent members.

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee**, PC, reported on the Proposed National Bylaws Changes which will be brought before the membership at the National Convention. He also reminded the Detachment about the July 4 Parade in New Britain and brought up the Town & Country Players fundraiser for this year. The fundraiser was tabled until the June Meeting. He asked the Detachment's feelings about having a Birthday Ball this. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to hold the Detachment's Annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Orion Club at Willow Grove. The Junior Vice will have more information on the Ball at the next meeting. He reminded the Detachment that ALL TICKETS and MONIES from the Department Raffle must be turned in at the June Meeting.

**Adjutant Gary Smith** read correspondence from the Department of Pennsylvania about the June 21-24 Convention.

**Judge Advocate Bob Momorella** reported on our successful "A-Day" Parking fundraiser.

**Public Relations Officer Don Gee**, PC, set May 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the June issue of *LISTEN UP!*

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to purchase a POW-MIA Flag to replace the tattered one currently flying at the Bucks County Courthouse. **Judge Advocate Bob Momorella** volunteered to get the flag in time for the Memorial Day Parade.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee** will be "jailed" on June 6 as part of the local Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual "Lock-Up." He asked Detachment members to support the MDA effort. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to have the Detachment donate \$25.00 towards his "bail" goal of \$1,800. He thanked the Detachment for the immediate support.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until June 14 at 7:30 p.m.**



# PATCH MAY DELIVER NUTRIENTS TO FUTURE WARRIORS

WASHINGTON--U. S. combat troops may get part of their daily diet through their arms if a new concept works out.

Army Soldier Center researchers in Natick, MA, are working on a transdermal nutrient delivery system--a skin patch similar in concept to nicotine and motion sickness patches. The new system could be a part of every combat service member's kit by 2025.

**Gerald Darsch**, joint project director for the DoD Combat Feeding Program at Natick, said the current developmental version is about the size of a conventional adhesive bandage and three to four times thicker.

The final version will be encased in some polymer to be very flexible, he speculated.

"Service members probably won't even notice they have it on," he noted.

The patches would contain "micronutrient" reservoirs and microscopic "pumps" and "plumbing."

The nutrients would augment or supplement a warfighter's diet during periods of high-intensity conflict. Officials see a use for the system to combat cold weather and high altitude stress, for instance.

"The idea is to keep the warfighters cognitive and physical performance sharpened at the optimal level," Darsch said.

"It could mean fewer dead or wounded U.S. service members."

Darsch said the system could incorporate various micronutrients. Researchers, he said, are considering 65 to 70 chemicals that might be effective and safe.

Two candidates, for example, are tyrosine, which has proven to help combat cold and high altitude stress, and glutathione, which could help reduce muscle fatigue and increase the ability of the liver and kidneys to filter out metabolic wastes.

"We have identified some that might be beneficial, but there still needs to be a lot of research done."

What are the doses that we administer?

What are the lasting effects?" he asked.

"We need to be sure before we start giving these to warfighters."

The system would dispense micronutrients when a self-contained near-infrared sensor determines the wearer needs them. The chemicals would be absorbed by osmosis through the skin.

Even using the transdermal patch, though, service members will still be hungry because the patches won't replace food.

"You can still eat even with the transdermal system," Darsch said.

"Am I going to tell you that a Milky Way or a Snickers bar will won't find its way into the rucksack of a soldier? Our service members are pretty bright. They'll take whatever pogy bait is necessary."

Darsch said researchers could probably add an appetite suppressant or some thing that will make the hypothalamus think the stomach is full.

"We probably could do that, but would we want to? I'm not sure," he said.

Darsch said some outside agencies are interested in the concept.

"We need to get industry and academia together with us on this," he said. "Firefighters, police, mountain rescue people, all could benefit from this concept."

He said the Army has spent just "thousands" on the concept.

If accepted, he thinks a "50 percent solution" to the engineering of the transdermal patch system is possible by 2010.

## 2,000 Attend War Dog Memorial Dedicated in California

RIVERSIDE, CA--An estimated 2,000 people attended the dedication of the War Dog Memorial at March Field Air Museum.

The memorial is an 18-foot tall bronze statue of a German shepherd sitting on alert, held on a leash by a soldier who appears to be moving through a wall--symbolizing moving from a safe zone into harm's way.

**Sculptor Tom Schomberg** of Denver, CO, who created the blackened bronze memorial, was moved by the out-pouring of emotion when his work was unveiled.

"These dogs were everything to us," said **Tom Mitchell** of San Diego. An Air Force veteran, he was one of the founders of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association which held a reunion here over that weekend.

World War II Marine Corps veteran

**Jack Moore** of Alexandria, VA, saw the War Dog Memorial on the Internet and traveled here to see the statue and dedication.

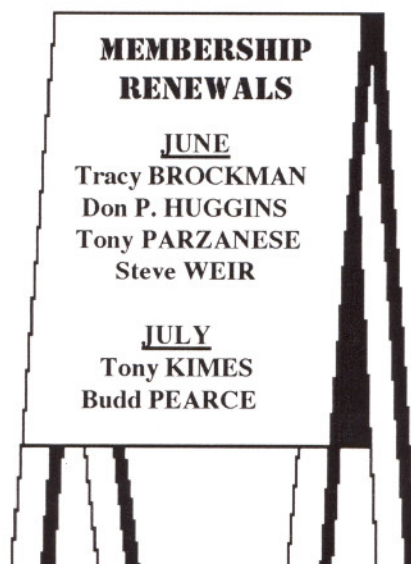
He said his dog, **Rex**, helped him ferret out traps and enemy soldiers in the jungles of Guam. Rex served him loyally for a year in combat, keeping him safe from enemy fire, he said.

"I brought old Rex home with me and had him until 1955 when I had to put him down," Moore said.

When Vietnam War dog handlers returned home to resume civilian life, the 4,000 mostly German shepherds used during that war were euthanized because the Pentagon feared they could harm people if adopted into the handlers' families.

According to Mitchell, 279 dogs were killed in combat during the Vietnam War.

The memorial was part of a \$1 million fund-raising campaign by **Corona, CA, Mayor Jeffrey Bennett**, President and founder of Nature's Recipe Pet Foods.





# RETIREES GET BOOST IN HEALTHCARE SUIT APPEAL

by Tom Philpott

*Military Update*

WASHINGTON, DC--If true intentions of appellate judges were easy to read, military retirees might have popped champagne corks Mar. 7 following oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit here in the case of Schism and Reinlie vs. U.S.

In that case, the Class Act Group, a band of retirees 65 and older, is appealing a lower court's 1998 dismissal of their lawsuit seeking restoration of promised lifetime medical benefits.

Based on how they grilled the government's lead attorney, a trio of judges seemed primed to reverse the lower court and to force the government to keep its promises of free healthcare for life to a generation of older military retirees.

Even the judges' backgrounds appeared to favor the retirees. Chief Judge H. Robert Mayer, a West Point graduate and retired reserve Colonel, fought in Vietnam as an Army Ranger. Judge S. Jay Plager, a naval reservist, at one time commanded a recruiting station and recalled passing along "from on high" materials touting the benefits of a full career including free lifetime medical care.

Judge Pauline Newman isn't a service veteran but she asked some of the most pointed questions of E. Roy Hawkens, the Justice Department attorney who argued that the retirees' appeal should be denied. "You're not telling us that these promises weren't made," said Newman, interrupting Hawkens' argument. "You're just saying they don't have to be kept." "That's correct," said Hawkens.

Appellate court decisions, however, are not determined by which side got scorched during oral arguments or, theoretically, by the biases of judges or even

by what a majority of Americans might see as justice. Appellate courts instead try to base decisions on appropriate case law.

For that reason, even in the glow of strong, supportive statements from all three judges, military retirees must still be seen as underdogs in the fight over healthcare. Still retired Air Force Colonel George "Bud" Day, the 75-year-old lawyer and Medal of Honor recipient who leads the Class Act lawsuit, said he is now more confident of victory.

These judges, he said, "had an absolute and thorough understanding of the facts and the right law. That was something we never got with the trial judge."

The government team "was beaten up pretty hard, and clearly they should; it have been," Day said. These judges, he said, see that the government is "trying to balance the budget on the back of military retirees."

Day argued that older retirees represented by this lawsuit entered service before June 1956 when Congress enacted the first law limiting retiree healthcare to the "availability of space" and the "capacity" of staffs. Before that, he argued, various laws and regulations authorized retiree healthcare. Combined with steady congressional funding of such care, it gave legal weight to oral promises of free lifetime healthcare continually made by recruiters and counselors. For several decades, he said, the Navy even collected money from sailors to fund service hospitals to accommodate retirees.

In 1995, when the Defense Department began its shift to managed care under the TRICARE program, tens of thousands of retirees found themselves denied in-service care.

Judge Prager cautioned Day that every law or regulation authorizing retiree care, even before 1956, had conditional lan-

guage that set limits based on space, staff or command prerogative. Otherwise, the court primarily attacked the government's argument that promises of free healthcare were not backed by law and therefore not binding.

"We are relying on established legal principles that, in the absence of a money mandating statute, or a valid regulation...promises made without actual authority...do not bind the government," said Hawkens. "And false expectations based on unauthorized promises are not legally enforceable."

Plager alluded to another case argued that morning involving money withheld from an informant working for the Drug Enforcement Agency.

"What I hear you say," Plager told Hawkens "is we should treat military veterans the same way we treat DEA informants...The government can make all the promises it wants but it doesn't have to keep them."

Hawkens cited the appeals court's own "thorough and searching analysis" last August in rejecting an appeal on the Sebastian case brought by the Coalition of Retired Military Veterans. CORMV argued that denial of free healthcare to all retirees was an unconstitutional taking of property. In that decision, which Newman signed with two other judges, the appeals court found no "absolute right" to care for retirees. It said arguments that retirees are treated unfairly "should be addressed to Congress, not the courts."

An important difference between the Class Act lawsuit and Sebastian, now under appeal to the Supreme Court, is that Class Act beneficiaries entered before June 1956 and therefore are not bound by the "space available" law, Day said. Also, Class Act gathered many documents on retiree healthcare promises not previously available.

Chief Judge Mayer said he is open to the argument that years of oral and written promises about free lifetime healthcare might provide a legal basis for such care. "All of that might be sufficient, in my mind, to overcome a piece of paper," he said.

## VIETNAM WAR WEBSITES

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<http://members.aol.com/veterans/warlib6v.htm>

[http://memberts.aol.com/warlib/i\\_write.htm](http://memberts.aol.com/warlib/i_write.htm)



# 'STUN GUNS' MAY BE WEAPONS OF FUTURE MARINES

There comes a time in many "Star Trek" episodes when the Captain tells armed crewmen, "Set your phasers on stun." Don't you wish you could do that?

U.S. service members may be able to dial in the stopping power of their weapons if a promising technology at the Oak Ridge Laboratory in Tennessee proves effective. **Rusi Taleyarkhan** leads the Oak Ridge team that's examining the technology for the Department of Energy. DoD's Joint Nonlethal Weapons Directorate at Quantico, VA, is following the project.

The Oak Ridge project centers on high-energy cartridges that contain water and aluminum as propellants.

Taleyarkhan and his brew demonstrated the technology using a modified shotgun.

Taleyarkhan's background is in fusion technology and the variable speed bullet was an outgrowth of his research. That's why the Energy Department is in charge of the program.

The weapon works by electrically trig-

gering the cartridge.

The aluminum liquefies and vaporizes the water, generating the pressure that forces the round out the barrel. The projectile could be made of lead, steel or even a fluid.

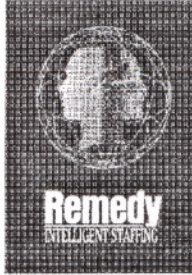
Unlike gunpowder, researchers say, the vapor "pulse" is scalable, meaning shooters can precisely vary the force they want. They could set their weapons to "stun," "disable," or "destroy." The weapon would have a laser rangefinder/aiming system to compute the force needed for the projectile to have the desired effect whether the target is point-blank or hundreds of yards away.

They're not effective at long ranges, but they can wound or kill at close ranges if they hit a person in the wrong place.

The Energy Department has been working on the concept for about four years, said Project Manager **Carl Pocratsky**. It has cost about \$800,000. Researchers have known about the vapor explosion phenomena for years, but scientists have only recently developed an electrical firing mechanism small enough to fit on a shotgun. The fist-sized electrical pulse generator works with a 1.5-volt battery.

Pocratsky said a weapon should be ready for testing in about two years.

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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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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**  
**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
**Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**



**"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"**