

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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JUNE 2006

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Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER



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 POWELL

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

> ADJUTANT GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

QUARTERMASTERROBERT DUFF

CHAPLAIN EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

<u>WEBMASTER</u> JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR ELLIS M. (BUD) PEARCE III, PC

U. S. BRINGS BACK .45 PISTOL

After two decades of use, the U.S. Department of Defense is getting rid of its Beretta M9 9mm pistol, and going back to the 11.4mm (.45 caliber) weapon.

There have been constant complaints about the lesser (compared to the .45) hitting power of the 9mm. And in the last few years, SOCOM (Special Operations Command) and the Marines have officially adopted .45 caliber pistols as "official alternatives" to the M9 Beretta. But now SOCOM has been given the task of finding a design that will be suitable as the JCP (Joint Combat Pistol).

Various designs are being evaluated, but all must be .45 caliber and have an eight-round magazine (at least), and high capacity mags holding up to 15.

The new .45 will also have a rail for attachments, and be able to take a silencer. Length must be no more than 9.65 inches, and width no more than 1.53 inches.

The M1911.45 caliber pistol that the 9mm Beretta replaced in 1985, was, as its nomenclature implied, an old design. There are several modern designs out there for .45 caliber pistols that are lighter, carry more ammo and are easier to maintain than the pre-World War I M1911 (which is actually about a century old, as a design). The Department of Defense plans to buy 645,000 JCPs.

The competition could get intense with an order this size, and there are already some good .45 caliber designs out there, including a SOCOM version of the Heckler and Koch USP.

The U.S. Marine Corps uses an upgraded version of the M1911, and were also looking at new .45 caliber designs.

SOCOM will, with input from other branches, handle the evaluation and final selection.

This will take place this year, and if the military moves with unaccustomed alacrity, troops could start getting their JCPs next year. But don't hold your breath.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

Our activities for the year are in full swing beginning with A-Day fund-raising on the last weekend of April. We also hosted the Southeast Division meeting which was held on Sunday the 30th at the Legion hall which went very well. We had enough help for both events and thanks to all those who showed up to help out, and a special thanks to Suzanne Pearce for her efforts in putting together the food buffet for after the meeting. We had a very good turnout for the meeting and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks again for all your help.

We did not fare as well with A-Day parking as we have done inthe past due to the parking lots that are no longer under our control. However, we did okay considering. I think we have some ideas on how to turn this around for next year. Now it's time to gear up for Memorial Day weekend and fund-raising at the State Store in Doylestown which will begin on Thursday evening of the 25th. Once again, we need everyone to pitch in and require at least two people on duty at all times, so contact Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce at 215-343-5609 and let him know when you'll be available. We always have a great deal of suc cess but only with your help.

The Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match will be held the first weekend of June. I don't know how many we have signed up, but I'll be there. It's always a fun time.

Our Detachment meeting which was held on the 10th was a fast one. We discussed the Memorial Day Parade and getting the float dressed up. Also we

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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.

need the Color Guard on board for the 0900 flag-rais ing at War Memorial Field, and a good showing of members riding the float.

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas has invited everyone to join him for breakfast at "Back to the 50s" at 0700 and he would pick up the tab. I think I'll take him up on that offer. Wil broke out the gas grill after the meeting was concluded and cooked up some tasty, juicy hamburg-

ers and hot dogs. Everyone enjoyed. We're also talking about having a steak night sometime in the future. More about that later.

That's about all I have to say for this month. See you on Memorial Day.

Semper Fi.

Willmir Millen

OFFICER AWARDS PRESENTED







At the May meeting, Commandant Bill Miller presented Detachment Elected Staff ribbons to (clockwise from left) Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, former Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson, and Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom.

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 May 10, 2006, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant and 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 Hoth.

The Minutes of the April Meeting were unanimosuly approved.

The Paymasters Report will be delivered next month.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported on the Southeast Division Staff Meeting which was hosted by the Detachment on Apr. 30 at the Legion. Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported the Detachment made \$625 from the A-Day Parking Fund-Raiser. He reminded the members the next fund-raiser is on Memorial Day Weekend at the States Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys) from Thursday evening. May 25, through Sunday, May 28. Volunteers are needed to help staff the fund-raiser. Contact Budd at (215) 343-5609 to volunteer for a couple of hours.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communication's 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.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Detachment had received an application to participate in the Annual 4th of July Parade in Chalfont.

Public Relations Officer set May 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 is still conducting "Boot Camp" for its new members.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE--Memorial Day Parade Marshal motioned the Detachment donate \$60 toward the cost of insurance for the parade. Since Doylestown Borough turned the parade over to the United Veterans of Doylestown, it became necessary to acquire liability insurance. The cost of the \$1 million insurance policy is \$502. The UVD has contributed \$200 from its limited treasury and the VFW has given \$60 leaving \$240 to be paid by the other UVD member groups. Each of the groups is being asked to contribute \$60. The motion was unanimously accepted.

BYLAWS CHANGES--Junior Vice Commandant Pearce noted that the Detachment ByLaws were in need of updating. The ByLaws have not been updated since they were re-written by Past Commandant Don Gee in October 1993. Budd asked the members to review the ByLaws and submit any recommended changes to Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom at the June meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY-Marine Ray Krout reminded the members about Memorial Sunday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 301 N Main St., Doylestown, on Sunday, May 28, at 11 a.m.

FLAG CEREMONIES—Junior Vice Commandant Pearce reported the Detachment has been requested to conduct a Flag Presentation Ceremony at Cold Springs Elementary School on May 23 and May 26 at 8:45 a.m. The two presentations each day will include a brief history of Memorial Day and the "13 Folds of the Flag." The PR Officer and Associate Member Corey Fisher have volunteered to handle the May 23 ceremony and Busld and Marine Bill Rosenberger will conduct the May 26 ceremony. One more volunteer is needed for each day to assist with the flag-folding. Contact Don Gee at (215) 822-6898 or Budd Pearce at (215) 343-5609 to assist with this presentation.

MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST--Mess Sergeant Wil Haas announced he will treat the Detachment to breakfast at "Back to the 50s" (Edison-Furlong Rd. & Old York Rd.) at 7 a.m., on Monday, May 29, before the Memorial Day Parade.

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

Bumper Sticker of the Month:

SOMETIMES I WAKE UP GRUMPY.....
OTHER TIMES, I JUST LET HER SLEEP

THE ORIGINS OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors--the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)--established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate graves of the war dead with flowers. MajGen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. The first large observance was held tat year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The cemetery already held the remains of 20,000 Union dead and several hundred Confederate dead.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

LOCAL OBSERVANCES CLAIM TO BE FIRST

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, MS, April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, GA, claim the title, as well as Richmond, VA. The vil-

lage of Boalsburg, PA, claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, IL, cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

OFFICIAL BIRTHPLACE DECLARED

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the 'birthplace' of Memorial Day. There a ceremony on May 5, 1866, was reported to have honored local soldiers and sailors who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

CONFEDERATE OBSERVANCES

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day the last Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ...Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave-a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War more than 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who gave died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

13 FOLDS OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies.

Here is a typical sequence of the reading:

(Begin reading as Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming forward).

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious policies on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veterans who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch through the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

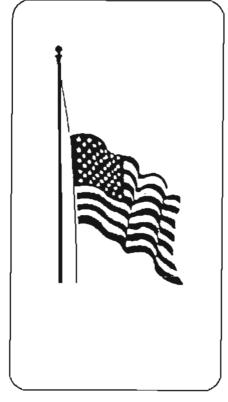
(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.)

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our

belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.



The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the starts are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

STATE STORE
FUNDRAISER
25-27 MAY
(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

29 MAY

(PARADE STAFF

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

FLAG DAY 14 JUNE

DETACHMENT MEETING
14 JUNE

FATHERS DAY 18 JUNE

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 21JUNE

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
4 JULY

DETACHMENT MEETING 12 JULY

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 AUGUST

LABOR DAY 4 SEPTEMBER

PATRIOT DAY 11 SEPTEMBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 SEPTEMBER

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THE FEW, THE PROUD

They are so damn young!

I was going to the gym tonight (really just a huge tent with weights and treadmills), and we had heard that one of the MEUs (Marine Expeditionary Units) that had come out of service in the "triangle" was redeploying (leaving country). We saw their convoy roll in to the Kuwait Naval Base as the desert sun was setting.

I have never seen anything like this. Trucks and humvees that looked like they had just come through a shredder. Their equipment was full of shrapnel blast holes, and missing entire major pieces that you could tell had been blasted by JEDs. These kids looked bad, too! I mean, sunken eyes, thin as rails, and that 1000yard stare they talk about after direct combat. Made me pretty damn embarrassed to be a "rear area warrior".

All people could do was stop in their tracks and stare... and feel like me...like I wanted to bow my head in reverence. A Marine Captain stationed with me, was standing next to me, also headed to the gym. He said, "Part of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 8th Marines, sir, Took the heaviest losses of any single unit up north as part of Task Force Danger, sir."

As the convoy rolled up, all of us watching just slowly crept toward these kids as they dismounted the Hummers and 5-tons. Of course, we were all shiny and clean compared to these warriors. This kids looked like they had just crawled from Iraq. I had my security badge and ID around my neck, and started to help them unload some of their duffle bags.

A crusty "Gunny" came up to me and said, "Sir, you don't have to do that..." I said. "Gunny... yes I do." They all looked like they were in high school, or younger! All held themselves sharply and confident, despite the extreme fatigue you

DONALD D. PARZANESE JR HECTRICIAN P O. Bax 306 Dublin, PA (215) 275-2718 could tell they had endured. "You guys out of the triangle?" I asked, "Yes, sir". 14 months, and twice into the grinder, sir" (both fights for Fallujah).

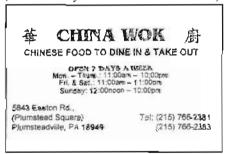
All I could do was throw my arm around their shoulders and say "Thanks Marine, for taking the fight to the bad guys...we love you man".

I looked at these young kids, not one of them complaining or showing signs of anything but focus, and good humor. 'Sir, they got ice cream at the DFAC, sir?" "I haven't had real ice cream since we got here..." They continued to unload... and after I had done my handshakes and shoulder hugs, the Captain and I looked at each other ...

They want ice cream, we'll get them ice cream. You see, a squid O-5 and a focused Marine O-3 can get just about anything, even if the mess is closed. Needless to say, we raided the closed DFAC (mess tent), much to the chagrin of one very pissed-off Mess Sergeant and grabbed boxes of ice cream sandwiches (as many as we could carry), and hustled back to the convoy. I felt like Santa Claus. "Thank you, sir" again and again from each trooper, as we tossed up the bars to the guys in the trucks. I'm thinkin', "Son, what the hell are you thanking me for? I can't thank you enough."

And they are so damned young ... I will sleep well, knowing they are watching my back tonight."

(A U.S. Navy Commander on Marines)





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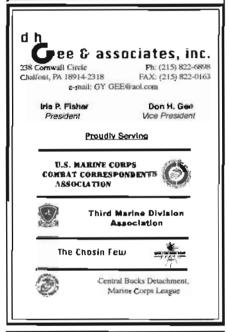
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