



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIV, Number 3

MARCH 2002



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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2d Wednesday of Month
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PENDLETON RANGES GOING HI-TECH

CAMP PENDLETON ---- The Marine Corps is building a computerized firing range for infantrymen that will give them instantaneous results and feedback on their shooting skills, officials said.

The newest training range at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base will be built on 45 acres in the San Onofre area. Students at the School of Infantry-West's infantry training battalion will fire their M16 service rifles, machine guns and automatic weapons at the range when it opens in a year.

The \$4 million range will be the base's fifth computer-operated range known as a remote target system, said Mike Collier, director of the training resource management division.

The computer can program an "infinite" number of scenarios to control the shooting environment and how each target reacts, Collier said.

The range's 165 stationary or moving targets are connected by wires to a computer system, he said. Students will shoot from 16 firing lanes and several positions, including rooftop, window, trench and behind a tree, and maneuver through a small portion of the range, he said.

Marine Corps officials say they want to improve training and upgrade older ranges that use simple paper targets. "Those kind of targets don't react if you hit them," Collier said. Computerized ranges "give them instant feedback."

Sixteen computerized ranges are planned at Camp Pendleton, with the next two slated for construction in 2004 if Congress funds the projects. Solar and wireless radio frequency capability may be added to save money, he said.

Computerized ranges are considered to be more challenging, requiring students to think and react quicker.

Targets are placed at unknown distances, from 100 meters to 700 meters. "In some cases, they have to estimate the range to the targets," Collier said. At recruit training, students fire at targets at known distances.

Hits on targets are recorded automatically, Collier said. Some results will be known immediately, such as when a target falls and stays down.

The scoring system is expected to be more accurate, which he noted is important since infantry students must meet certain standards at the school.

"Before, you had paper targets out there, and when you have a target at 600 meters (away), there's no practical way" to know whether the shot was a lethal hit, Collier said. The range will be used in daytime and at night, when strobe lights will simulate muzzle blasts and light up some targets.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 13 MARCH 2002 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Those of you who were at the February meeting know already, but for those who weren't there here is the bad news. No one seems willing to run for Commandant this year. I have served for 9 of the last 10 years, and although I fully enjoy the job, I think someone else should lend a hand here. I know that it is against your nature to volunteer, but right about now somebody has no choice. If you want the Detachment to continue, we need a Commandant. Since I will not be doing that job this year, it is up to another Marine to step in. If we were in combat and I carried the machine gun and for some reason couldn't, would you go into battle without one just because you don't feel like doing the job? If your answer to this is yes, then let me know when you're going to battle next so I can stay home. I thought that Marines took care of Marines, but I guess that only means if there is no work involved. It's time to stop watching and get involved!!! Remember the oath you took upon entering the League? In that oath you promised to live up to your responsibilities as a member of the League. I feel that helping when needed is one of those responsibilities, I hope you do too. Call **Don Gee** now and do the unthinkable, volunteer!

Speaking of work, don't forget to earmark some time around the third weekend in April for our big fundraiser. For those who don't know what that is yet, we run parking lots across from DelVal College during their A-Day weekend. On a good weekend we can bring in

quite a bit of money. Last year was a very bad weekend and we still brought in a few hundred dollars. Without this fundraiser we would have to come up with other ways to make the money. Not many of our members seem to be too thrilled about selling raffle tickets, so this works out fine for us. The big problem is getting help. We need most of the Detachment to come out and help with this one. If we get enough people out then we only have to be on duty for a few hours each. The less help the longer the hours. Here is another one of those things where it is important for Marines to stick together. Get hold of **Bob Momorella** and tell him that you will be there to help.

Ray Krout informed us at the last

meeting that **Herb Krout** is having some problems, health wise. I have sent an E-mail to him to see if there is anything the Detachment members could do to help out. When I hear from him I will let you know. I will also let you know about the use of the float for this year's parade season as soon as I find out any info on that subject. Come to the March meeting, I'll try to have some news by then. That's it for now...see you at the meeting.

MARCH IS ELECTION MONTH! -
COME TO THE MEETING AND
VOTE!

Semper Fi,

Budd Plance

How Do These People Survive?

Recently, when I went to McDonald's I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

"We don't have half dozen nuggets," said the teenager at the counter. "You don't?" I replied. "We only have six, nine, or twelve," was the reply. "So I can't order a half-dozen nuggets, but I can order six?"

"That's right." So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets.

The story above doesn't amaze me because of what happened a couple of months ago. I was checking out at the local Foodland with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those Dividers" that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed.

After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the "Divider" looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it. Not finding the bar code she said to me "Do you know how much this is?" and I said to her "I've changed my mind, I don't think I'll buy that today." She said "OK" and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened....

A lady at work was seen putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly. When inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM "thingy".

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. Do you need some help?" I asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenient store) would have a battery to fit this?"

"Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm too?" I asked. "No, just this remote thingy," she answered, handing it and the car keys to me. I took the key and manually unlocked the door.

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?" "Just use copier machine paper," the secretary told her.

With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five "blank" copies.



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 February 13, 2002, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Paymaster and Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Don Gee**; **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Frank Yohe**; and **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**.

Marine Dennis Stanislaw was unanimously accepted into membership.

The Minutes of the January Meeting were unanimously approved.

In the absence of **Paymaster Bob Cody**, the Paymasters Report was not presented.

Sick Call: Paymaster Bob Cody is still recuperating from his open heart surgery. **Marine Ray Krout** reported his brother, **Marine Herb Krout**, was having medical problems. **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas** gave an update on his wife **Agnes** condition.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reported the Spring Department Staff Meeting will be held March 15-17 and the National Convention will be held Apr. 26-28. The Department will hold a Leadership School on May 4 at the department Headquarters Building at F. Indiantown Gap.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 56 members including 19 Life Members, 34 Regular members, and 3 Associate members. There are 5 delinquent members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reminded the members that the monies and ticket stubs for the Department of Pennsylvania Annual Raffle must be turned in at the May meeting, at the latest. Money and tickets should be turned in prior to that so the stubs can be sent to the department in a timely manner. He also reminded the members about the Feb. 28 "11th Anniversary of the Persian Gulf War Cease fire" program at the Bucks County Courthouse. The ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had no correspondence besides what the Commandant had reported./

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported there have been no requests for the detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Young Marines--Young Marine Coordinator Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines Unit had participated in a rock-climbing since the last Detachment meeting and are planning a Survival Training Weekend. He also informed the member that the Young Marines Unit will be presenting the Colors at the Gulf War Cease fire ceremony at the Courthouse on Feb. 28.

Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer set Feb. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the March issue. **Advertising Chair Bob Momorella** reminded the members that the advertising for this year expires on April 1. He enjoined the members to seek advertisers for *LISTEN UP!*

A-Day Committee--A-Day Chair Bob Momorella reminded the members that A-Day is the last weekend in April. Detachment members need to plan to volunteer their time on that weekend for this annual fund-raiser.

Grocery Receipts--It was reported the ACME receipts failed to meet the annual minimum again this year. The Detachment voted to drop ACME from the Grocery receipts Fund raising. Members were reminded that receipts from Redner's and Genuardi's are still needed by the Detachment for this fund-raiser.

Rifle & Pistol Team--In the absence of **Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger**, the Commandant reported the Department Pistol Match will be in June.

Nominating Committee--Nominating Committee Chair Don Gee presented the slate of officers to be voted upon at next month's meeting. The slate is: Judge Advocate, Bob Momorella; Adjutant, Gary Smith; Paymaster Bob Cody; Junior Vice Commandant, Don Parzanese Jr.; and, Senior Vice Commandant, Bill Miller. There were no candidates for the office of Commandant. Anyone else desiring to run for office or anyone wanting to nominate someone for office should contact Don Gee at: (215) 822-6898.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Pearce appointed **Marine Ray Krout** to be MIA-POW Committee Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Ray Krout has acquired a red blazer. Anyone interested should contact him.

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reported his with **Peggy** has been conducting a campaign to send packages to Marines in the Middle East. He passed out a listing of items needed for the packages (See Page 5). Members who want to contribute to the effort should bring the items to the next meeting and future meetings. The Detachment will donate the postage necessary to get the packages to the troops.

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

DOD NEWS BRIEFS

PAY RAISES PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

The Defense Department's pay plan for 2003 includes a minimum 4.1 percent basic pay increase proposed in the administration's defense budget, plus targeted raises being discussed by DoD officials. Targeted raises for enlisted members would range from 2.4 percent for E-5s to 1.9 percent for E-9s. When added to the 4.1 percent hike, maximum increases would be 6.5 percent. For officers, targeted raises would range from 0.9 percent to 2.4 percent, aimed mostly at O-3s and O-4s, but also adding more than the minimum of 4.1 percent to O-5 pay to maintain a steady pay rise in the promotion ladder. The maximum officer raise also would be about 6.5 percent. If approved by Congress, the increases would be effective January 1, 2003.

VETS GROUPS OPPOSE VA'S \$1,500 DEDUCTIBLE

Some veterans groups and their congressional allies say they will resist an administration proposal to charge certain veterans up to a \$1,500 annual de-

ductible for their health care from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The deductible would impact the new priority 7 group of veterans whose incomes are more than \$24,000 if single or \$28,000 if married, and who have no service-related disabilities or other qualifications. They or their insurance companies would pay 45 percent of the charges each time they receive medical care until they reach the \$1,500 annual cap. The Paralyzed Veterans of America charges that it would put some of the VA's specialized services out of reach of some veterans. The American Legion says that \$1,500 is grossly out of line. The chairmen of both the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees also disputed this funding plan.

VETERANS' BURIAL BENEFITS INCREASED

The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 increases, from \$1,500 to \$2,000, the burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability. The act also raises the cemetery plot allowance for certain other disabled veterans from \$150 to \$300. (The plot allowance is paid when a veteran who is buried in a non-government cemetery was either: eligible to receive VA disability compensation or a VA pension; or was discharged from military service due to disability; or died in a VA hospital. The law also directs the VA to honor requests for government markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries even if their graves have headstones or markers furnished at private expense. Previous law prevented the VA from providing markers in that situation. The new provision for markers applies to veterans' deaths on or after Dec. 27, 2001.

CLASS ACTION SUIT RETURNING TO COURT

The class action lawsuit brought by retired Air Force Col. George "Bud" Day,

a Medal of Honor recipient, will be returning to court on March 6. Last February a three-judge panel ruled that the federal government had broken its promise to military retirees who joined the military before June 7, 1956 and were guaranteed free medical care for life. The U.S. moved for a rehearing, which was referred to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. Visit <http://www.classact-lawsuit.com/index.html>.

160,000 TFL CLAIMS TEMPORARILY REJECTED

Some 160,000 claims for Tricare for Life were rejected initially because the patients' military identification cards had expired. However, Dr. William Winkenwerder, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, has announced that these claims will be paid after all, with a grace period lasting until July. This will give the affected beneficiaries time to renew their ID cards. Beneficiaries can track their Tricare-for-Life claims at <http://www.mytricare.com>.

MILITARY RESORT HOTELS PLANNING TO EXPAND

The Army is adding 229 rooms to its "Shades of Green" hotel at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and building a new 330-room hotel in Garmisch, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps. The projects will be funded through nonappropriated funds generated by the four Armed Forces Recreation Centers. (The two other AFRCs are the Dragon Hill Lodge in Yongsan, Korea, and the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu.) The new hotel in Garmisch will replace four older hotels currently operating in Chiemsee and Garmisch. Meanwhile, the Air Force has opened a new hotel for service members in Keystone, Colo. "Rocky Mountain Blue," a 1,749-acre facility with 22 ski lifts, is a partnership between the Air Force and Keystone Resorts, Defense officials said.

2002 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**11TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PERSIAN GULF CEASE FIRE
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
1900-FEBRUARY 28**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MARCH 13
(DETACHMENT ELECTIONS)**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
APRIL 10
(OFFICER INSTALLATION)**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MAY 8**

A decorative border of stars surrounds the text. The stars are arranged in a rectangular frame, with some stars filled in black and others outlined in white. The top row has 9 stars, the bottom row has 9 stars, the left side has 10 stars, and the right side has 10 stars.

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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"



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MARINES SPORT NEW LOOK

The Marines are always looking for a few good men. They may be harder to spot as the Corps outfits its members in new camouflage uniforms.

The uniforms have a number of improvements including no-snag button cuffs on the sleeves, pleats in the trousers, shoulder pockets and easy-care fabric.

But the most obvious feature is the pattern, called MARPAT -- for Marine Pattern -- one of 100 patterns considered for the state-of-the-art clothing. The Corps calls it a leap ahead in camouflage technology and has applied for three patents on it.

"On the side of a ridge line or a hill, when I looked up to locate Marines, I actually had to search for them," said **1stSgt. Andrew Yagle**, 40, of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "The uniform has been a hit with Marines."

Fox Company, attached to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, was one of several units that put the uniform through its paces over the past year.

Development of the camouflage pattern was carried out with help from scout-snipers at Quantico Marine Base, who are experts at concealment.

The uniforms debuted at Camp Lejeune this month and will be phased in, becoming the standard for the 172,000 active duty and 40,000 reserve members of the Marine Corps by 2006.

Yagle's infantry troops will be wearing the new uniform when they ship out with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit next month.

The colors of the woodland and desert patterns -- mixes of greens, tans, browns and black, depending on the environment -- are similar to those being used now. But the pattern is smaller, a collection of tiny squares like the pixels in a computer photograph, as opposed to the smooth-lined abstract shapes on current uniforms.

"It is a pattern about nothing," said **Maj. Gabe Patricio**, project officer for the new uniform. "It doesn't form anything. It disrupts the form of the body."

A gray-based pattern for urban use is being developed.

One tester, **LCpl. Ryan Hercher**, 22, of Tucson, Ariz., said he likes the new uniform so well it's all he wears. He has put away the old, large-pattern woodland camouflage that the Marine Corps has used since about 1980.

When the uniform gets dirty, Hercher pops it in the washer and dryer and -- because it's permanent press -- can wear it immediately.

Members of Fox Company kept log books of pluses and minuses as they put the new clothing to the test.

"We ripped out a few knees and blew out a few elbows," Yagle said.

Marines rejected a prototype with zip-off sleeves that they found hard to roll up.

"It didn't go very well. We felt like we were wearing a bowling shirt," Yagle said.

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