



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

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MARCH 2005



**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

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DON H. GEE, PC

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES POWELL

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

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CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

MESS SERGEANT
BOB SUNDLING, PC

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR
WILLIAM E. JERROM

CORPS STRENGTH INCREASES ANNOUNCED

By Christian Lowe

Marine Times staff writer

The Marine Corps is set to grow by nearly 3,000 new leathernecks over the next three years, Marine officials have confirmed, marking the first end-strength increase since ongoing deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq have stretched the 175,000-strong force to its limits.

The increase stems from language in the fiscal 2005 Defense Authorization Act, signed into law in October, which allowed for an end-strength increase of up to 9,000 Marines through 2009.

Marine officials say they are not planning to take Congress up on its offer to add all 9,000 troops, though they are leaving the option open.

The additional than 1,800 infantry-new foreign military cruiters, will be through 2007 and this year, with the year thereafter, Ma-

To pay for the in-to seek funding in tions requests rather their yearly spending forecasts, according to Marine Corps manpower officials.

Corps officials last summer had indicated they were considering a manpower boost along with a host of other options, including increased use of provisional units and a major reorganization of the Corps' force structure to give the force some breathing room in the face of ongoing commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa totaling more than 30,000 troops.

The manpower increase is intended to fully staff existing infantry battalions and will help plug gaps in training and recruiting operations at home and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Obviously they have thought this through long and hard," said retired Marine Col. Gary Anderson, a military strategist and Pentagon consultant. "When you get into [security and stabilization operations] they are very manpower intensive."



troops, including more men, 400 Marines for training teams, 275 re-brought into the Corps will cost \$159 million price rising slightly each rine officials said.

crease, the Corps plans supplemental appropria-than budgeting them into

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I was very pleased with the turnout at our February meeting which made up for the cancellation last month. We had a lot of items for discussion and some good reports from **Past Commandant Budd Pearce** and his coordination of Detachment activities, and **Past Commandant Bob Sundling** reporting on the Young Marines.

We also formed this year's Nominating Committee with PC Budd Pearce as it's chairman. Budd is on the hunt for candidates who are willing to go to bat for our Detachment and become an elected officer, so give Budd or myself a call if your interested.

The appointed officers are encouraged to move up to the rank of elected, as well. Let's show some interest and help our Detachment grow.

Believe me when I say this; the Department of Pennsylvania knows who we are and what we contribute to the Marine Corps League. It really feels good to be recognized for our efforts.

In case you're wondering what my position is on this matter, I have not committed to continue as Commandant, however, I won't rule it out. I want to give someone else the opportunity to

have all the enjoyable experience I've had during the past year.

If someone (anyone) wants the job, then I'll step aside, wish him well, and give my full support.

I gave my report on the winter meeting held at Grantville at our Detachment meeting and I'll fill the rest of you in, as well.

It was one cold weekend with snow on the ground and the forecast of more on the way which kept a lot of people away and caused others to return home early. Not a lot took place other than all the officer reports.

One thing that was mentioned and I don't know if it applies to any of our members is that if you have 25 years of continuous membership in the Marine Corps League with this being the 25th year (between January 1 and June 22), you are eligible to receive recognition in the form of a very nice plaque.

Since I don't know all of you who are members of our Detachment, this is the only way I can get the word out. Please contact me or **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC**, if you qualify.

One of the highlights for me is the portion of the meeting called the Commandants Counsel where all the Commandants

or their representative have the opportunity to report on the activities of their Detachment.

It's a good forum to find out what others are doing and you can get some good ideas from it as well. In the past I would just get up there and wing it and after I was finished would realize that I could have said a lot more. This time I was prepared and gave a full, detailed report of our Detachment and was commended for the effort.

A meeting of the Southeast Division took place at the VFW Hall in Glenside on February 20. I attended and will give a report at the March meeting.

Also at the March meeting we'll have the nomination of officers followed by the election. I'm very hopeful for a large turnout of members at the meeting. I hope that members don't stay away because of fear that they be nominated. You always have the right to decline and nothing more will be said. Just show up and support your Detachment in any way that you can.

See you in March!

Semper Fi!

Bill Miller

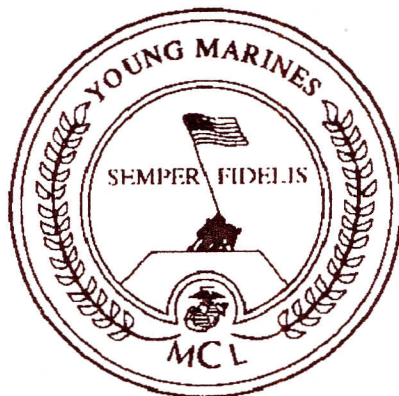
Bill Miller

SUNDLING SELECTED AS "YOUNG MARINE OF YEAR"

Young Marine Staff Sergeant Robert M. Sundling, son of Past Commandant Bob Sundling, was named the "Young Marine of the Year" for the Liberty Young Marines Unit.

Sundling, 18, earned the award for his leadership and work as the senior Young Marines instructor for recruit training.

A Young Marine for the past eight years, Sundling displays his leadership



skills to his peers as the Unit's Company First Sergeant, the senior billet for a Young Marine. He was selected for the

position after serving as the Unit's Company Gunnery Sergeant for almost a year.

As an instructor, he successfully trained 63 recruits entering the Young Marines during the past three years.

During these training evolutions, he leads the Young Marines in physical training, close order drill and interior guard. He also teaches Marine Corps history, leadership and common skills used in the Young Marines.

A senior at Central Bucks East High School, Sundling has enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and is scheduled to head for "Boot Camp" at the Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot at Parris Island, SC, in August. He has also been accepted as a student at Penn State and Drexel universities.

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 #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held February 9, 2005, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 16 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom.**

The Minutes of the December 2004 Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported on the Quarterly Staff & Member Meeting in Grantville. He noted the Department is considering re-districting Department Divisions and will probably take action on it at the Department Convention in Bethlehem in June.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 51, including 21 Life Members, 26 Regular Members, 3 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reminded the members about the Department Raffle tickets, stating there are more tickets available.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from the National MCL or the Department since the last meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported there had been no requests for the detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Liberty Young Marines Unit is planning a trip to the USS NEW JERSEY in the near future and that the Unit is in need of instructors. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the Unit should contact Bob for the particulars.

RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM--Rifle & Pistol Team member Budd Pearce, PC, reported the team is seeking more members. Anyone interested in joining the R&P Team should contact him or Team Captain Bill Rosenberger.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, announced the next highway clean-up will be on Saturday, Mar. 12. Detachment members are to meet at 8 a.m. at Tilley's Restaurant for breakfast on the Detachment prior to the clean-up.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE--Commandant Miller appointed **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce** to chair the committee and charged him to present a nominations slate at the March 2005 meeting.

FUND-RAISER--Past Commandant Pearce reminded the members we will be conducting a fund-raiser at the State Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys) over the Memorial Day weekend. Members are encouraged to support this activity. He also reported he is finalizing plans for our annual "A-Day" Parking fund-raiser in April at Delaware Valley College.

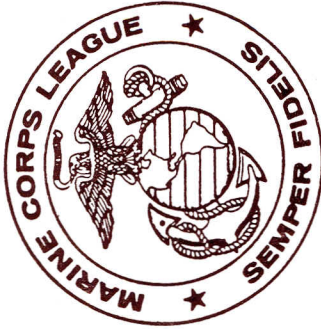
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Miller and Senior Vice Gee announced the 55th Birthday of Past Commandant Bob Sundling. Commandant Miller appropriately presented Bob a "birthday" TastyCake to mark the occasion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2005

SEMPER ★ FIDELIS

Marine Corps League



National Jr. Vice Commandant's Citation

Central Bucks Detachment

to

*In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious
service in the interests of the National objectives
of the Marine Corps League.*

Awarded this 30th day of July 2004

John V. Ryan

National Jr. Vice Commandant

How to Obtain Your Military Records

It may become necessary at some point in time to request your military records. The following information will help guide you through this process. Complete information can be obtained at the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) at <http://www.archives.gov/>. The information contained herein is believed to be accurate as of this writing. Please check with the NARA website for updated information.

Currently there are three ways to obtain a copy of your service records:

1. Veterans or next-of-kin of deceased veterans can use NARA web site.
2. Obtain and Fill out Standard Form 180 (SF-180) and submit it to the appropriate records center.
3. Write a Letter to Request Records

Obtaining Records via the Web

Go to <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>, read all the information regarding your request, when done, click the Request Military Records Button.

Obtaining records via Standard Form 180(SF-180)

First you must obtain Standard Form 180. There are many ways to obtain this form, below are just a few of them:

1. From the Web: Standard Form 180 can be downloaded from the NARA website at http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/standard_form_180.pdf,
2. NARA Fax-On-Demand service:
 - Call the Fax-on-Demand System at (301) 837-0990 from a fax machine, using the handset.
 - Follow the voice instructions, and request document #2255.
 - There is no charge for this service except for any long distance telephone charges you may incur.
3. Write to: The National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63132 and request Standard Form 180.
4. You may also be able to obtain the SF-180:
 - From the Department of Defense
 - From Federal Information Centers
 - From local Veterans Administration offices
 - From veterans service organizations

The SF 180 may be photocopied as needed. Please submit a separate SF 180 for each individual whose records are being requested.

Writing to request Military Records

If you are not able to obtain SF-180, you may still submit a request for military records. Requests must contain enough information to identify the record among the more than 70 million on file at NPRC (MPR). Certain basic information is needed to locate military service records. This information includes:

- The veteran's complete name used while in service
- Service number or social security number
- Branch of service
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known

If the request pertains to a record that may have been involved in the 1973 fire, also include:

- Place of discharge
- Last unit of assignment
- Place of entry into the service, if known

Where to submit the request

Requests must be dated and with a handwritten signature, either by mail or by fax only. This is because Federal law [5 USC 552a(b)] requires that all requests for records and information be submitted in writing. Each request must be signed and dated.

You may submit more than one request per envelope or fax, but please submit a separate request (either SF 180 or letter) for each individual whose records are being requested.

Send by Mail

Our mailing address is:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Send by Fax

Our fax number for requesting military records is 314-801-9195. The Center will respond in writing by U.S. Mail.

Order Processing Time

Response times for records requested from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) vary greatly depending on the nature of the request. For example, the NPRC Military Records Facility currently has a backlog of 180,000 requests and receives approximately 5,000 requests per day. Routine requests for separation documents currently require only 2-4 weeks for servicing. However, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire or older records, which require extensive search efforts, may take much longer. The average turnaround time on all requests is currently running at approximately 12 weeks

C-B DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

CODY, Bob codyrj@att.net
CUPITT, Steve scupitt@aol.com
scupitt@motorola.com
GEE, Don USMCCCA@aol.com
HOTH, Ed Edhothusmc@aol.com
McCOMB, Jim j.mccomb@att.net
MILLER, Bill billjae@verizon.net
MOMORELLA, Bob mombo@starlinx.com
PARZANESE, D. Sr. ... parzanese@quigleyco.com
PARZANESE, D. Jr. donald.parzanese@us.army.mil
PEARCE, Budd Buddpearce@comcast.net
PLANT, Bill billplant@cableone.net
POWELL, Jim jim.powell@aig.com
usmc80@comcast.net
SCOTT, Rich richgscott@aol.com
SUNDLING, Bob Sundling@comcast.net
sundling@tiniusolsen.com

How to Properly Wear Ribbons & Medals

- * No pins, medals or any other devices shall be worn on the MCL Cover other than the EGA.
- * Either DOD or MCL ribbons to be worn one eighth inch above the left breast pocket of white short sleeve aviator shirt. DO NOT INTERMIX.
- * Shooting badges will not be worn with MCL ribbons.
- * MCL Ribbons ONLY on the MCL Ceremonial Uniform (khaki shirt))No DOD ribbons or Shooting Badges to be worn.
- * Miniature medals may be worn on the Blazer as part of the MCL Formal Uniform (tuxedo shirt, bow tie.
- * Large medals may be worn on the MCL Mess Jacket.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DETACHMENT MEETING
OFFICER ELECTIONS
9 MARCH

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
12 MARCH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
17 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
20 MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY
25 MARCH

EASTER
27 MARCH

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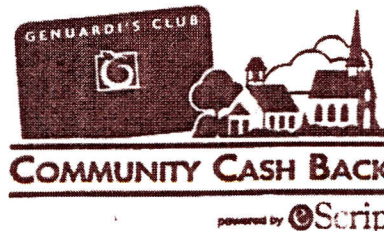
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Genuardi's Club Card Number

Signature

*Required Information

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www.escrip.com

Soldier to Receive Posthumous Medal of Honor

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, FL--A soldier credited with saving dozens of lives by beating back an Iraqi attack before he was killed will receive the first Medal of Honor awarded since 1993, according to the officer who nominated him.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, 33, of the Tampa Bay area, was killed in action when his outnumbered unit was attacked by Iraqi forces at the Baghdad airport on April 4, 2003.

LtCol. Thomas Smith on Tuesday notified the soldier's wife, Birgit, that President Bush would present the nation's highest award to her and their children, Jessica, 18, and David, 10, at a White House ceremony, possibly in March.

No official announcement had been made by the Pentagon as of Wednesday.

"This is a guy whose whole life experience seemed building toward putting him in the position where he could something like this," said Thomas Smith, who is not related to the fallen soldier. "He was demanding on his soldiers all the time and was a stickler for all the things we try to enforce. It's just an amazing

story."

Paul Smith, with Bravo Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion from Fort Stewart, GA, was helping build a holding pen for a growing number of prisoners when he climbed aboard an armored personnel carrier and manned its .50-caliber machine gun to cover for fellow troops.

Smith fired more than 300 rounds and the ceramic breast plate in his flak jacket was shattered as he took return fire from automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

He was the only American who died in the attack.

"People know what he's done," Smith's wife said. "People know that to get a Medal of Honor you have to be a special person or do something really great."

Since the Civil War, 3,439 men and one woman have received the Medal of Honor, awarded for bravery "above and beyond the call of duty."

It was last presented to two soldiers killed in Somalia during action described in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down."

Purpose of the Marine Corps League

To preserve the traditions, promote the interest, and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that Service together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

To hold sacred the memory and the history of men and women who have given their lives to the nation.

To foster love for the principles that they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.

To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.

To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, uniformed and civilian, as well as to their surviving spouses and orphans.

League members know a special bond of comradeship unique to those who have worn the Marine Emblem.



The members look after one another. They observe national holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day and days of special interest to Marines such as the Marine Corps birthday, the anniversary of the flag raising

at Iwo Jima and the day the Fourth Marine Brigade entered Belleau Wood.

The League performs some of its most important service on the local level through programs of benefit to the communities. Many detachments recognizing a need, embark on special programs to help advance their towns and cities.

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



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"