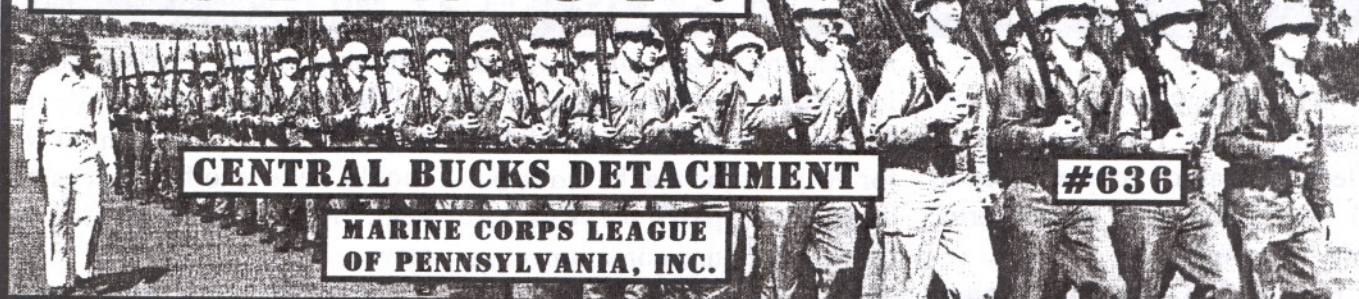


# LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XX, Number 5

MAY 2007

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

## *Marines Modify Rifle Qualifications*

CAMP FUJI, Japan--Officials with the Marine Corps Marksmanship Center of Excellence are implementing many changes to rifle qualifications throughout 2007 including major changes to the scoring system, officials said.

Several of these changes have already been implemented and were announced in Marine Administrative Message 225/07, released March 26.

The rapid fire portion of the Table 1 known-distance course of fire no longer requires Marines to conduct a magazine change after firing five rounds. Marines now fire a single magazine of 10 rounds in 60 seconds instead of two five-round magazines in 70 seconds.

"We were teaching a bad technique for exchanging magazines during rapid fire that we had to unteach Marines during the training in Tables 2-4," said **Capt. Kyle Patton**, the officer-in-charge of the Marksmanship Programs and Doctrine Section Marksmanship Center for Excellence. "We added the magazine exchange training to Table 2 with speed reload drills."

The hammer pair drills Marines

fired during the Table 2 "field fire" portion of the qualification course have moved to Table 3. The drills require Marines to fire two rapid, successive shots to the chest.

Marines engage targets from 25 yards during Table 2, and Patton said marksmanship doctrine states hammer pairs should be used on targets 15 yards away. Table 3 supports target engagements from 5 to 25 yards.

The biggest change to qualification standards will take effect Oct. 1 when a completely revamped scoring system will be implemented, according to Patton. A Marine's Table 1 and Table 2 scores will be tallied together to determine his rifle qualification level.

Currently, the Table 2 score does not affect a Marine's qualification unless he fails the Table. Failure to receive a passing score in Table 2 automatically drops a Marine's Table 1 score to 190, giving him the lowest minimum qualification level of marksman.

Patton said the scoring system will change from a 250-point scale

## **MARINE HONORED AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

LONDON--A U.S. Marine appeared before **Queen Elizabeth II** at Buckingham Palace Mar. 21 to receive the United Kingdom's Distinguished Flying Cross for saving lives and in recognition for his bravery during combat operations in Iraq.

**Marine Maj. William D. Chesarek Jr.**, is the first U.S. servicemember to be so honored since World War II.

Assigned as an exchange officer with the Royal Air Force's 847th Naval Air Squadron, Commando Helicopter Force, based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset, England, the U.S. Marine flew the RAF's Lynx Mk7 helicopter--the aircraft he used to dodge insurgent's bullets and rocket-propelled grenades.

Flying the evening of June 10, Chesarek was providing radio communication relay for British ground troops conducting a company-sized search operation near Amarah, Iraq. Listening to radio transmissions, he overheard that a vehicle involved in the operation had become disabled and a crowd of insurgents was firing small arms and rocket-propelled gre-

Please turn to **RIFLE** on Page 5

Please turn to **MARINE** on Page 5

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Fellow Marines,

As I begin my duties as your new Commandant, I can't help but reflect upon all of people I need to thank for providing this opportunity to serve.

First of all, I would like express my appreciation to everyone for putting your trust in me and electing me to be your new Commandant. I hope that I can do as good

a job as my mentor and new **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**. I would like to thank Bill for the great job that he did as our leader for the past three years, and for the continued commitment he shows for our Detachment. Ooh-Rah Bill! I am delighted and relieved to know that I can continue to rely on Bill to help me navigate my way around in my new roll as your Commandant.

I cannot let this opportunity go by without also thanking **Past Commandant Don Gee**. We all owe Don a debt of gratitude for stepping up and being your new Senior Vice Commandant. He brings with him many years of experience in the Corps and the League which will continue to help shape our Detachment. We all know Don will be a valuable asset in his new roll. On a personal note, I would like to say that in my four and a half years in our Detachment, Don has been very helpful to me and always willing to offer advice and aid whenever I needed it. Thanks, Don!

Last, but certainly not least, **Past Commandant Budd Pearce**, will be your Junior Vice Commandant. There are no words that can describe Budd's value to the Detachment. I can only say thanks for staying on, Budd. The rest of the elected and appointed Staff will be

returning to their previous posts.

With this much experience surrounding the Detachment we should have another successful year. Many thanks to all who serve.

I understand that all members are not necessarily in a position to step up as frequently as others. However, my hope is that everyone will participate and help the Detachment grow and prosper. I'm a big believer in getting everyone's ideas to the floor so that each Marine and Associate has the opportunity to step up to lead on those things that they are knowledgeable and experienced in. Remember, it takes everyone participating for our Detachment to succeed.

One great example of participation is the highway cleanup program. The last cleanup, on Saturday, April 14 was very successful. We had 10 people participate and great weather. **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC**, did a great recruiting job, getting his wife, Peggy, his daughter and one of her friends to also participate. We had a great breakfast and fine conversation at "Back to the 50's" diner before getting to work. We then knocked it out in about an hour. Thanks to all that attended.

*Jim Powell*



**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**  
**DON H. GEE, PC**

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

**ADJUTANT**  
**GARY SMITH**

**PAYMASTER**  
**ROBERT J. CODY**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**  
**WILLIAM E. JERROM**

**QUARTERMASTER**  
**ROBERT DUFF**

**CHAPLAIN**  
**EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC**

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**  
**BOB SUNDLING, PC**

**MESS SERGEANT**  
**WIL HAAS**

**WEBMASTER**  
**JAMES E. PEARCE**

## LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

Someone familiar with desktop publishing is needed to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

# APRIL DETACHMENT MEETING



## MINUTES

The regular meeting of the **Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc.**, of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held April 11, 2007, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 23 members present including all officers except the Adjutant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling** and **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**.

**The Minutes** of the March Meeting were unanimously accepted by the members.

**Sick Call:** **Marine Frank J. Kukuchka** is recuperating at home.

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

### OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Bill Miller** reported on the Mar. 17-18 Department Meeting at Indiantown Gap. He also reported about participating in a funeral with All-Divisions Detachment. He reminded the members there will be a Southeast Division Meeting on May 20.

**Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** reported the Detachment strength at 50 including 22 Life Members, 23 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

**Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC**, reported on progress on arrangements for parking lots for A-Day at DelVal College (Apr. 28-29) and for the Memorial Day weekend (24-27 May) fund-raiser.

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

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

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC**, reported the Detachment's Color Guard had been requested by Delaware Valley College for its graduation ceremony on May 19.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reported he was awaiting receipt of new items from Marine Corps League Headquarters.

**The Public Relations Officer** set April 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the May issue of *Listen Up!*

**Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported about the Young Marines Unit's Cold Weather Training on 24-25 March. The Unit is also planning a trip to the Marine Barracks, 8th & I Sts., Washington, DC, for the final Evening Parade of the season in August.

**"Goodies for the Troops"**--Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reported his wife, Peggy, had received letters of thanks from the troops overseas.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Commandant Miller** presented "Marine of the Year" medallions to past Detachment "Marines of the Year."

### NEW BUSINESS

**Commandant Miller** presented the Distinguished Service Medal to **Marine Rich Scott** for his sustained contributions to the Detachment.

**Officer Installation**--The Installation of Officers was conducted in proper order by **Southeast Division Vice Commandant Robert A. Rup**. The newly installed officers were escorted to their posts.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marine Rich Scott** announced their would be a United Veterans of Doylestown Memorial Day Parade Meeting on Apr. 18 at 1930.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on May 9.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**A-DAY PARLING  
FUND-RAISER  
28-29 APRIL**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
9 MAY**

**STATE STORE  
FUND-RAISER  
24-27 MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE  
28 MAY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
13 JUNE**

**FLAG DAY  
14 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY  
17 JUNE**

**FIRST DAY  
OF SUMMER  
21 JUNE**

**4TH OF JULY  
PARADE  
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
11 JULY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
8 AUGUST**



# **MARINES!**

**BUS TRIP TO QUANTICO, VA  
ON JUNE 8, 2007**

Visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps  
Then on to 8th & I Marine Barracks for Dinner  
and the Evening Parade

Depart:	Doylestown, PA	7:30 a.m.
Arrive:	Quantico, VA	11:30 a.m.
Depart:	Quantico, VA	3:30 p.m.
Arrive:	8th & I Marine Barracks	5:30 p.m.

(For Dinner At Mess Hall)

**SNACK, SOFT DRINK & DINNER INCLUDED  
IN THE PRICE OF  
\$35.00 PER PERSON**

For More Information: Contact **BILL HAAS** at  
215-257-7828 (Home)  
or  
215-757-0420 (Office)

You Can Call Bill at his Business Number  
Tuesday - Friday between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.  
or at his Home Number Any Other Time

Guided Tour at the Museum for Additional Fee--  
Make Your Own Arrangements

## MARINE *(From Page 1)*

nades at the company.

According to his award citation, "Chesarek elected to fly low over the area in an attempt to distract the crowd and if possible, to engage the insurgents." Because the crowd was so close to the ground troops, instead of engaging his machine gun, he "opted instead to provide bold, harassing, very low level flight over the area in an attempt to disperse the crowd."

However, radio traffic from the ground told Chesarek he was now the target and was drawing small-arms fire, and that a rocket-propelled grenade had just passed the rear of his aircraft.

"I had been in a couple of situations with troops in contact before," the 32-year-old Chesarek said. "I had a good idea of the kind of potential danger

involved, but now I was listening to the individual commander on the ground. Someone was injured; what can we do?"

Using his view from above, Chesarek applied his training as an airborne forward air controller to coordinate, designate and control fixed-wing assets in conducting close air support, resulting in the dispersing the insurgents.

Chesarek made the unconventional move - what's considered an "implied mission" in military parlance -- to conduct a medical evacuation with the Lynx to help a British soldier with a life-threatening head injury.

As the only aircraft available to assist, he landed the Lynx near the company in distress as his door gunner and another crew member jumped out.

"My door gunner jumped out and picked up the injured soldier and put

him in the helicopter," Chesarek said. "My other crew member had to stay, or we would have been overweight to fly."

Now, nine months later, Chesarek's name echoed throughout the ballroom of Buckingham Palace as he was called before the queen to be recognized and credited for "having a pivotal role in ensuring the rapid evacuation of (a) badly injured soldier and the safe extraction of the Company."

Wearing his ceremonial uniform, Chesarek stood before the queen and hundreds in attendance, including his parents, his wife and their 2-year-old son, William.

After Chesarek bowed, the custom when in front of the queen, the British monarch placed her kingdom's level-three award for gallantry in the air while on active operation against the enemy on his chest.

Φ

## RIFLE *(From Page 1)*

to a 350-point scale - 250 for Table 1 and 100 for Table 2. Field fire will no longer be a hit or miss training event. Shots placed in the designated area of the target will be worth two points. Hits on the rest of the target will be worth one point. So during drills that call for two shots to the chest, any shot within a 10-inch circle on the target's chest area will be worth two points. Shots outside the circle but still on the target will be worth one point.

A test bed of Marine Corps bases are using the scoring system during rifle qualification for data collection purposes only. The new scores for marksman, sharpshooter and expert will be determined after the data is collected and reviewed by the Marksman-ship Center of Excellence.

"Greater emphasis on accurate shot placement instead of just hitting the target was needed in driving Marines toward accurate lethal, mobility kill shots," Patton said.

"For each individual Marine, he or she will be driven to focus more on quick accurate shot placement

of their rounds during Table 2. The days of just hitting anywhere on the target are over.

"We want the Marines to understand the importance of making their rounds count while placing them in the enemy's body where they'll do the most damage, ultimately killing them."

## 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!**

## SERVICE IN IRAQ: Just How Risky?

by *Samuel H. Preston and Emily Buzzell*

The consequences of Operation Iraqi Freedom for U.S. forces are being documented by the Defense Department with an exceptional degree of openness and transparency. Its daily and cumulative counts of deaths receive a great deal of publicity. But deaths alone don't indicate the risk for an individual. For this purpose, the number of deaths must be compared with the number of individuals exposed to the risk of death. The Defense Department has supplied us with appropriate data on exposure, and we take advantage of it to provide the first profile of military mortality in Iraq.

Between March 21, 2003, when the first military death was recorded in Iraq, and March 31, 2006, there were 2,321 deaths among American troops in Iraq. Seventy-nine percent were a result of action by hostile forces. Troops spent a total of 592,002 "person-years" in Iraq during this period. The ratio of deaths to person-years, .00392, or 3.92 deaths per 1,000 person-years, is the death rate of military personnel in Iraq.

How does this rate compare with that in other groups? One meaningful comparison is to the civilian population of the United States. That rate was 8.42 per 1,000 in 2003, more than twice that for military personnel in Iraq.

The comparison is imperfect, of course, because a much higher fraction of the American population is elderly and subject to higher death rates from degenerative diseases. The death rate for U.S. men ages 18 to 39 in 2003 was 1.53 per 1,000 -- 39 percent of that of troops in Iraq. But one can also find something equivalent to combat conditions on home soil. The death rate for African American men ages 20 to 34 in Philadelphia was 4.37 per 1,000 in 2002, 11 percent higher than among troops in Iraq. Slightly more than half the Philadelphia deaths were homicides.

The death rate of American troops in Vietnam was 5.6 times that observed in Iraq. Part of the reduction in the death rate is attributable to improvements in military medicine and such things as the use of body armor. These have reduced the ratio of deaths to wounds from 24 percent in Vietnam to 13 percent in Iraq. Some other factors to be considered:

Branch of service: Marines are paying the highest toll in Iraq. Their death rate is more than double that of the Army, 10 times higher than that of the Navy and 20 times higher than for the Air Force. In fact, those in the Navy and Air Force have sub-

stantially lower death rates than civilian men ages 20 to 34.

Among the Marines, there is in effect no difference in the mortality risks for members on active duty and those in the reserve. In the Army, on the other hand, reservists have 33 percent of the death rate of those in active service because they are not assigned to combat positions. Members of the Army National Guard are intermediate in assignments and in mortality.

Rank: In both the Army and the Marines, enlisted personnel have 40 percent higher mortality than officers. The excess mortality of enlisted soldiers is diminished by the high mortality of the lowest-ranking officers, lieutenants, who are typically the leaders of combat patrols. Lieutenants have the highest mortality of any rank in the Army, 19 percent higher than all Army troops combined. Marine Corps lieutenants have 11 percent higher mortality than all Marines. But the single highest-mortality group in any service consists of lance corporals in the Marines, whose death risk is 3.3 times that of all troops in Iraq.

Age, sex, race and ethnicity: In contrast to the civilian population, mortality rates decline precipitously with age. Troops ages 17 to 19 have a death risk 4.6 times that of those 50 and older. Differences in rank by age undoubtedly contribute to this pattern, and so do differences in branch of service. Sixty-five percent of Marine deployments to Iraq were of those age 24 or younger, compared with only 39 percent of Army deployments. Women are not assigned to combat specialties in Iraq, although they do see enemy fire; their death rate is 18 percent that of men.

Identifying racial and ethnic differences in mortality is not straightforward because the Defense Department uses a different classification system for deaths than for deployments. Nevertheless, all attempts we have made to reconcile the two systems reach the same conclusion: Hispanics have a death risk about 20 percent higher than non-Hispanics, and blacks have a death risk about 30 to 40 percent lower than that of non-blacks. That low death rate appears to result from an overrepresentation of blacks in low-risk categories: For example, 19 percent of blacks in Iraq are women, compared with 9 percent of non-blacks, while 7 percent of blacks in Iraq are Marines, compared with 13 percent of non-blacks.

Other casualties: The number of wounded in Iraq through March 31, 2006, was 7.5 times the number of dead; the rate at which wounds are incurred was one per 33 troops per year. We do not have the same information about the characteristics of those wounded as we have about those killed. But given the overwhelming importance of hostile encounters in both wounds and deaths, it is likely that variations in the risk of being wounded are quite similar to those presented here.

*[Samuel H. Preston is the Frederick J. Warren professor of demography at the University of Pennsylvania. Emily Buzzell is a student in the Health and Societies Program at Penn.]*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayers since 1777.

# 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.

## USMC TRIVIA QUIZ



1. Who was largely responsible for developing the amphibious landing techniques in the Pacific during World War II?
2. Name the largest helicopter evacuation ever attempted?
3. How many awards did Chesty Puller earn during his Marine Corps career?
4. How many stars are on the Medal of Honor ribbon?
5. Which U. S. President first ordered Marines to guard U. S. Navy ships?

Answers in next month's LISTEN UP.

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. There are six types of wounds.
2. Ammonia is the cleaning agent used to remove quartermaster from belt tips and buckles.
3. The junior man enters the vehicle first.
4. A silver star on the Marine Battle Color represents five campaign awards.
5. Six numbers are needed in grid coordinates to locate a point to the nearest 100 meters.

## HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR RIBBONS AND 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.



## 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 \$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.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
**Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



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