



# LISTEN UP!

Central Bucks Detachment  
P.O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North Street  
Doylestown, Pa.

"ONCE A MARINE - ALWAYS A MARINE"

COMMANDANT - BUDD PEARCE

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL. 9 NO. 5

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1996

## MINUTES FROM THE APRIL DETACHMENT MEETING

The regular Detachment meeting was held on April 10, 1996 at the American Legion Home on North Street, in Doylestown, Pa.

There were twenty-one (21) members present including all officers, except the Jr. Vice whose position is vacant at the present.

In attendance was Dave Pavey, Commandant of Department of Penna.; George Curley, S.E. Div. Vice Commandant; Charles Shaw, Asst. S.E. Vice Commandant who were present to preside over the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected Detachment officers.

Also, present were two visitors: Bob Momorella of Chalfont, Pa. And Bob Duff of Hatboro, Pa. who are prospective members.

The regular business meeting will be quite short this evening due to the installation of new officers.

### SR. VICE - Bill Rosenberger

At the present time the Detachment has sixty(60) members including 39 regular, 14 life and 7 associate. There are nine members delinquent with their dues.

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The highway clean up will be on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at 0900. Those wishing to have breakfast first can meet at the Rose Garden in Buckingham, Pa at 0800.

### GENUARDI TAPES

Register tapes amounting to \$14, 000 have been turned into the supermarket for the allowable rebate. This is one of the easiest ways of raising money so keep those tapes rolling in.

### POW/MIA

It has been reported that an Army man whose name was on "THE WALL" in Washington, D.C. has been found alive in the USA.

The installation of new officers for 1996-97 will take place immediately following the close of the regular meeting.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE 08MAY96 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME ON NORTH STREET, IN DOYLESTOWN, PA.





## COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

I am deeply honored that you have chosen me to be your Detachment Commandant. I assure you I will do my best to serve you and our Detachment. Junior Past Commandant **Budd Pearce** did a tremendous job during the past three years. I hope to continue the success our Detachment experienced during his tenure.

It is helpful to set goals for an organization like ours so we give a positive purpose to our efforts. I have set four goals toward which I will work: (1) to make our Detachment more visible in the community, (2) to get our auxiliary unit chartered, (3) to increase membership, and (4) to get more members involved in our VAVS program.

In making our Detachment more visible in our community, I hope to seek out opportunities for us to participate in more civic and veteran-oriented activities and programs. These efforts, hopefully, will result in the Central Bucks Detachment becoming a key player in community programs and achieve an even more positive image for Marines and our Detachment among our neighbors.

The Central Bucks Marine Corps League Auxiliary is a project which is coming to fruition. Marine **Paul Caprio** has devoted a great deal of time and energy to getting the unit up and running. It is extremely important that we all support his efforts and try to get our wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, etc., interested in this most worthwhile venture.

Membership increase has been the goal of every Department and Detachment Commandant since the League was chartered nearly 60 years ago. I am continuing that tradition. To accomplish this, we must each serve as a recruiter for our Detachment. We need to bring that former Marine we know from our job or the one that we met at some social function or the one we met in the mall parking lot into the fold. Each of us should be carrying at least one blank membership form in our wallet or one of our Detachment pamphlets in the glove box to give to that Marine. We also need to work on our renewals. The individual who sponsored the member who is listed as a delinquent renewal needs to contact that Marine and find out why he hasn't renewed his membership. The one thing that is worse than not getting a new member is losing a member. We have to work twice as hard to recover.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program for our Detachment is sadly lacking in volunteers. We need to have more Marines involved in this program in which we not only "take care of our own" but contribute to the well-being of our fellow veterans.

I ask your support in achieving these goals. Working together, we can make a difference in our community, our Detachment, our Department, and our League.

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don H. Gee", written over a horizontal line.

DON H. GEE



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT DAVE PAVEY DOES THE HONORS



The new officers take the oath of office.



The New Jr Past Commandant, and now Chaplain, Budd Pearce, talks with Sr. Vice Bill Rosenberger before giving up the head chair. Commandant Pavey looks on.



Asst. SE Div Vice Charley Shaw takes the Chaplain position for the installations. SE Div. Vice George Curley was also on hand that evening.



Dept. of PA Commandant Dave Pavey presents the Detachment gavel to the new Commandant Don Gee.



There was a good turn out for the installations.



Commandant Pavey's wife Sharon chats with Doris Miller. There were several family members present.

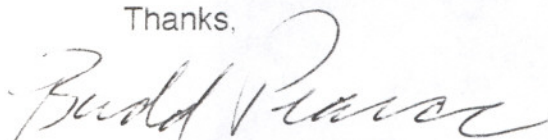


## Chaplain's Corner

This will be a new feature in our newsletter. You will be able to keep up with whom is under the weather, in the hospital or recently released from the hospital. I have had three great years as Commandant and now I am happy to be the Chaplain of Central Bucks Detachment and I think that it is important for all the members to be kept abreast of the good and bad news of the other members and their families. I think that we all are interested in what is happening with our fellow Marines and that is why I decided to give this addition to the newsletter a try.

If you have knowledge of one of our members being sick, or otherwise in distress, please let me know so I can get a card, or whatever, out to them. I would also appreciate any good news that you might hear. This can be a fun section in the newsletter, as well as an informational one. My number is (215) 343-5609, please leave a message.

Thanks,



Chaplain



The highway clean-up crew  
errects the saftey signs  
prior to starting the job.

YOUR NEW COMMANDANT  
GySgt DON H. GEE USMC (Ret.)





# MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. who was the first Marine MEDEVAC pilot?
2. How many Marines were taken prisoner during the Korean Conflict?
3. What is the title of the official publication of the 1st Marine Division Association?
4. Approximately hoew many gallons of Agent Orange dioxin were dumped on Vietnam?
5. Who is known as "The Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps?"

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The first black Woman Marine officer was Warrant Officer Annie Grimes.
2. The Mayaguez incident took place on 12 May 1975.
3. The United States officially ended WWI on 10 November 1918 (the 143rd birthday of the Corps).
4. General Douglas MacArthur said, "I have just returned from visiting Marines at the front and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world."
5. The USS FINCH was the first American warship to sail around the world.

For those of you who like to write letters and would like to send a friendly "Hello" to our troops in Bosnia, the Pentagon has announced a mailing address for letters or small packages for service members in Bosnia, but not to specific individuals. Postage for letters is the regular 32 cents. Packages should be no larger than a shoe box and weigh less than 70 pounds.

The address for the U.S. land forces (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps) is: Any Service Member, Operation Joint Endeavor, APO AE 09397.

The address for Navy and Marine Corps personnel aboard ships supporting the Bosnian mission is: Any Service Member, Operation Joint Endeavor, APO AE 90398.

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# Changes fire up new rifle program

NAVY TIMES

By Chris Lawson  
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — After almost a year of test-firing the Corps' new rifle marksmanship training program, officials have decided it's time to make some changes.

Beginning immediately, Marines will find themselves:

■ Spending five days instead of eight on requalification range details.

■ Having 10 more seconds to fire the 300-yard line rapid fire stage of fire.

■ Using a hasty sling at 200-yard line rapid fire stage.

■ Zeroing their weapons at 36 yards instead of 300.

■ Conducting grouping exercises before shooters zero their weapons.

Other minor changes are planned as well in order to standardize marksmanship programs at both entry and sustainment levels.

"Our main focus was to try to determine a more time-efficient way of conducting the training program," said CW03 Randy Allen of Quantico's Weapons Training Battalion. Allen helped design the new course of fire and headed up the recent Course Content Review Board that approved the changes. In addition, he said, the changes were made to ensure that the focus of the Corps' marksmanship program is quality training and not pure evaluation.

"If we train correctly as a Marine Corps, the evaluation will take care of itself," he said.

## Out with the old

Beginning last October, after more than 30 years of qualifying Marine riflemen on the traditional Known Distance Course, officials radically altered the scoring methods, targets and firing positions that shooters use when they initially take marksmanship training at boot camp and Officer Candidate School as well as when veteran Marines annually re-qualify with their M16A2 rifles.

The new course includes a hit-or-miss scoring system that awards points only for hits in the black; field firing exercises; hasty slings; and the use of "D" targets that simulate a person's head and shoulders instead of the circular, ringed "A" target used in shooting competitions.

The changes are intended to improve the combat shooting skills of every Marine regardless of job specialty.

A year after Marines started sending rounds downrange on the new course, officials are now ready to fine-tune the new program. The goal, Allen said, was to ensure the rifle marksmanship program continues to train combat marksmen in the most efficient and realistic manner possible. Officials want to create a quality training program and not just annually evaluate a shooter's marksmanship skills.

"We've got to continue to focus on quality training and get off this evaluation kick," Allen said. "Too often our ranges want to purely evaluate Marines instead of train them. That's wrong." The new changes will speed up the requalification process.

## The changes

■ **Shortening the time.** While time spent on the range can vary depending on the size of the detail, it cur-

rently takes about eight days to complete the sustainment level rifle requalification program. Officials have found a way to shave three days off the average by moving the Weapons Presentation classes and exercises to the front of the Known Distance firing course, instead of having it at the end of the program. In other words, field firing classes will be conducted at the completion of each day of live-fire Known Distance training and not as a separate phase.

It also means that range details can be organized into four shooting relays instead of six. The likely result is that some Marines and marksmanship instructors will spend a little bit more time on the range over only five days.

The change was made for two reasons, Allen said. Foremost was better time management. Second, the review board determined that altering the schedule of events allowed shooters to better concentrate on marksmanship fundamentals such as aiming, breathing and trigger control.

■ **70 seconds at the 300-yard rapid fire stage.** This change reflects the Corps' new mindset of shooting for skill, not for score. During the rapid fire stage, shooters have been firing 10 rounds from two magazines in 60 seconds from the standing to the prone positions. Officials decided that for shooters to concentrate on proper marksmanship fundamentals — and to keep track of their magazines — they needed more time to complete the stage of fire.

As a result, 10 seconds have been added to the course. Allen said in order to fire the 10 rounds in 60 seconds, shooters routinely ejected their first magazine from the rifle and tossed it to the ground while they scrambled to retrieve the second magazine from their cartridge belts. In actual combat, he said, reckless disposal of the first magazine cannot be tolerated.

In addition, shooters often hurried their shots to meet the 60-second deadline and didn't focus on proper marksmanship skills. The review board decided that by adding the extra time, shooters could still meet the requirements of sustained rapid fire drills and keep track of their rifle gear.

"The one object of rapid fire is to teach a Marine to fire his rifle at a sustained rate of 12 to 15 rounds a minute," Allen said. "If you consider moving into the firing position, magazine change, magazine retention, and the time limit allowed for firing, all that combined comes out to 70 seconds. That still will keep the Marine firing at the desired sustained rate."

As a result, shooters must hold on to their first magazine instead of letting it fall where it may. That's an important habit to master, Allen said, especially in combat.

"In maneuver warfare, you don't have time to stop and get new magazines. You must use what you have with you," he said.

Range coaches will not flunk Marines who fail to retain their magazine, however. Allen admitted that some overzealous range officials would often fail people in the past for not meeting similar requirements. "We're don't want [range coaches] who are simply looking to check something on a block. We want quality trainers. It comes down to leadership. We don't beat a Marine up for making a mistake."



■ **Using the hasty sling while standing.** This change will affect new Marine recruits and lieutenants at the recruit depots and Officer Candidate School.

Under new policy, shooters will use the hasty sling while firing the 200 yard, standing, stage of fire. The hasty sling is the parade sling a shooter wraps his arm around and grips the upper handguard.

Regular Marines have used the hasty sling on the new requalification, or sustainment, course, and new Marines will get the advantage and experience as well. Scores should improve, Allen said, because of the added stability of using a sling. The change was made, Allen said, to familiarize new shooters to the hasty sling as early as possible in their shooting careers.

■ **Grouping exercises will now be done before zeroing the weapon.** Officials want to standardize the marksmanship programs at both the entry and sustainment levels. Under new policies, grouping exercises will be conducted first, before a shooter zeroes the rifle. The review board decided it's more important to determine if shooters can even fire a group of shots — no matter where they hit on the target — before they shoot for accuracy.

A grouping exercise is performed when shooters fire three to five rounds and attempt to place them in the same location, proving they have mastered marksmanship fundamentals. Zeroing exercises are performed when shooters manipulate the rifle sights and windage knobs to accurately hit what they are aiming at. Battlesight zero is a predetermined sight adjustment that, set on the weapon, will enable a shooter to engage targets effectively at battle ranges when conditions do not permit exact sight settings.

■ **Conducting zeroing exercise at 36 yards.** The zeroing exercise that's currently conducted at 300 yards will now be moved up to just 36 yards. When you shoot at 300 yards, Allen said, you have to account for the effects of the wind. The review board determined that new shooters should not have to deal with that level of complexity so early in the marksmanship program.

As a result, field expedient zeroing will be done at the 36-yard line. Shooters can determine their actual 300-yard line battlesight zero during that stage of fire. The battlesight zero is the zero a Marine would take into combat with them.

### **New course on track**

Marine officials have six months worth of data on how shooters are performing on the new course of fire. So far, they are pleased with the results. "We're experiencing the same qualification rates on the new course as we did on the old," Allen said. "Ninety percent or better of Marines are qualifying on their first attempt."

It will take two years, however, before officials can accurately say how many expert, sharpshooter or marksman qualifiers the new course is producing since only those shooters who qualified as sharpshooters or marksmen their last time, on the range are required to hit the firing lines. Under new policies that began with the introduction of the new course, shooters who qualified expert on their last range detail did not have to fire again this year.

"But it's been our experience that it will be pretty much the same," Allen said. "If you were an expert on the old course, you'll likely be an expert on the new one."

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## **New simulators bring mixed feelings**

By Chris Lawson  
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — Whether Marines like it or not, the small arms simulators are coming.

In an effort to get more bang for its training bucks by cutting down on live-fire training and ammunition, the Marine Corps has embraced Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainers, or ISMTs, for basic marksmanship.

Over the next 2½ years, 189 ISMTs are scheduled to be fielded throughout the fleet as a tool for remedial and diagnostic training. Marine officials announced Aug. 18 that software to support their marksmanship programs is now available on all ISMTs fielded after March.

"As they become available, ranges should use simulators to the maximum extent possible," ALMAR 241/95 stated.

Already, several bases and stations have received the ISMT machines, which combine modified weapons like the M16A2 rifles in conjunction with

video targets projected on a wide screen. The weapons are outfitted with lasers to strike targets and feature simulated sound and kickback to enhance realism.

As with other more sophisticated simulators used on vehicles like the M1A1 tanks, a variety of combat scenarios can be played on the screen. The training values are obvious, supporters contend: it's cheaper, it can be used indoors and it provides immediate feedback so that coaches and trainers can evaluate a shooter's shortfalls.

Not all Marines like the concept.

"It has its place. It's a good remedial and diagnostic tool, but it simply isn't real," said one gunnery sergeant at Quantico. "A Marine is not going to fight with a simulator."

In 1993, the Center for Naval Analyses completed a yearlong study on the subject and recommended that the Corps proceed "expeditiously" to put small-arms simulators into infantry

training programs at recruit depots and the Schools of Infantry. Analyst Robert Berg contends the Corps can save more than \$120 million over the next five years in ammunition and training costs by adopting systems like the ISMT.

The Corps, it seems, heeded Berg's advice. That despite the cries of some Marines and members of Congress.

In 1994, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., warned of the over-reliance on simulators when he said in a report: "Simulation can be an extremely useful supplement to training but it cannot replace it... Excessive reliance on simulation may produce lower training costs, but it is no substitute for the real thing."

Regardless, the simulators are on their way. Camp Lejeune, for example, recently opened its Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer facility that uses six of the \$600,000 apiece ISMT systems. Lejeune expects to receive 16 more systems by 1996.



# Training for winter in Norway

NAVYTIMES

## Reservists grab the ball and head for Battle Griffin

By Jon R. Anderson  
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — The wintry tundra of northern Norway will mark the place where Marine Corps reservists write another page in their how-to book on helping out the active Corps — and get some of the best cold weather training available to boot.

Some 4,300 reservists will converge for exercise "Battle Griffin" the first two weeks of March, getting in their annual training and helping out the active Corps at the same time.

A throwback to the Cold War, the Battle Griffin exercise is held every two to three years on Russia's northwestern doorstep along the Barents Sea. The exercise is designed to test the Corps' prepositioned equipment in Norway, which is stashed deep inside mountainside caves in case of a Russian thrust into Europe.

While few think that is a real possibility these days, there is still enough concern among NATO allies to keep exercises like Battle Griffin going. The problem for the Corps, however, is that there are more pressing obliga-

tions elsewhere — so there aren't enough active-duty Marines to send.

That first became apparent during the Persian Gulf War, when reservists were first asked to participate in the exercise, according to Marine Forces Reserve spokesman Capt. Jeff Jurgensen.

During the next Battle Griffin in 1993, active-duty units again filled the exercise rosters, needing only a little help from the Reserve.

But this year it will be completely up to reservists to carry the ball.

"This is the biggest exercise we do that focuses specifically on relieving the op-tempo of the active Corps," said Marine Forces Reserve commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Wilkerson.

### Leading the pack

Heading up the exercise will be the Reserve's II Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, or II MACE, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

II MACE is commanded by Brig. Gen. Kevin Kuklok, who also acts as the deputy commander of II MEF.

"This is a II MEF exercise that just happens to be covered by II MEF reservists. This is what Total Force is all about and this is the new way of doing business," said Wilkerson.

Although the specific units that will be involved in the exercise are still

considered "NATO Classified," the major components will be built around:

■ 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines based out of Brookpark, Ohio.

■ MAG 49, based out of Willow Grove, Penn.

■ 4th Forward Service and Support Group (Forward) East, based out of Camp Lejeune.

### The art of survival

All reservists deploying to Battle Griffin will have to learn how to live and survive in the arctic weather before leaving. Some 2,000 reservists did that training at Fort Dix, N.J., last February. The rest have been attending three-day courses at an Army National Guard camp in West Virginia hosted by a Marine special operations training detachment there.

According to Maj. James Lariviere, an operations officer with II MACE, reservists will draw their equipment out of the caves and then move the gear more than 300 miles north, mostly by ferry, to the training area.

"The coordination and planning required to pull widely scattered reserve units together to create a cohesive task force that will be able to conduct operations in Norway is immense," he said. "This is nothing like taking a few battalions out of Camp Lejeune and deploying."

## For junior Marines,

Carlton W. Meyer

## it's confusion in the ranks

NAVYTIMES

One source of frustration in the Marine Corps is the correct collective term for Marines in the grades E-1, E-2 and E-3.

Some call them troops or junior enlisted, but this sometimes includes noncommissioned officers (NCOs). Non-rates is a popular term, but is vague and demeaning.

Recently, the Marine Corps began to describe "them" on military ID cards as non-NCO. A non-noncommissioned officer would actually be a commissioned officer.

An E-1 is a private, an E-2 is a private first class and an E-3 is a lance corporal. Private is good, but private first class is odd since there are no private second or third classes. Since private first class is so long to pronounce, these Marines are usually called PFC.

Lance corporal is also long, and confusing because it sounds like an NCO title.

The title corporal comes to us from the French word *caporal* and from the Latin *capodi*, meaning the head of a small group or section. Lance corporal derives from the medieval leader of a lance, a small combat group of six men. Since an E-3 is not an NCO, calling them lance corporal is inaccurate. It's true that E-3s are often placed in leadership positions, but so are E-2s.

Since the title lance corporal incorrectly implies an NCO grade, it should be eliminated, because it causes confusion. When a Marine is promoted from E-3 to E-4, he or she is suddenly expected to have more authority and respect as an NCO.

Marine NCOs complain they are often treated as senior troops, rather than leaders. The overlapping corporal titles is a major factor. The Marine Corps should adopt a simple, accurate, military term to describe E-1s, E-2s, and E-3s: E-1, private third class; E-2, private second class; and E-3, private first class. Marines in these grades would be referred to as "private."

Some argue this blurs the promotion to E-2 and E-3. However, these promotions are based primarily on time in service, and happen within a two-year period. Therefore, calling all E-1, E-2 and E-3 Marines "private" (or Pvt. on ID cards) is more practical.

Finally, in this new age of jointness, since an Army E-3 is a private first class and an Air Force E-3 is an airman first class, it also makes sense for a Marine E-3 to be a private first class.

Such a change may seem unnecessary to senior officers who do not face this problem on a daily basis. However, lower-ranking Marines are familiar with the confusion and disciplinary problems as result of the title.

Making the change for them is just good common sense.

Carlton W. Meyer is a major in the Marine Corps Reserve.



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