



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

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October 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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50th STREAMER ADDED TO BATTLE COLORS

MARINE BARRACKS, Washington, DC-- The Kosovo Campaign Streamer was added to official Battle Colors of the Marine Corps during the final Evening Parade of the 2001 season here, hosted by the **Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones.**

Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England, attached the streamer to the colors, before a crowd of more than 3,000 guests.

The Kosovo Campaign Streamer has two bronze stars representing the two components of the campaign -- air and defense.

In 1999, Marines participated in an air campaign against the forces of **Slobodan Milosevic**, then-president of Yugoslavia. The attacks forced Milosevic's forces to stop oppressing ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo.

On Sept. 24, 2000, he was defeated overwhelmingly at the polls by opposition candidate **Vojislav Kostunica**. Since 1999, Marines have served in Kosovo to cool ethnic strife in the region.

Former President Clinton established the Kosovo Campaign Medal and the accompanying campaign streamer to recognize those whom participated in Kosovo operations or provided direct support.

While the campaign revolved around Kosovo, it involved forces that also operated in or over Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, Slovenia, the Adriatic, and the Ionian Sea.

The streamer commemorating these actions now joins the 49 other streamers representing the entire battle history of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The streamers represent the Corps' large actions, such as its battles in World War II and World War I, and small actions, such as the Barbary Wars and the Dominican campaign.

Marine Barracks Washington is the home of the official Battle Colors of the Marine Corps.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 10 OCTOBER 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

Vieques Island 'Cease Fire' Put On Hold

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 -- With the nation on a war footing, leading Democrats are backing away from their demand that the Navy bring an immediate halt to its bombing exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

In a series of interviews, Democrats are arguing that the need to preserve the nation's military readiness far outweighs concerns about the Navy's bombing runs on the island.

The lawmakers say the training exercises have taken on a significance that simply did not exist before Sept. 11, when terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon placed the nation on high military alert.

"Everyone understands that times have changed," said **Senator Charles E. Schumer**, a New York Democrat who has been a staunch critic of the Navy's operations on Vieques. "You can't pull the rug out from under the war effort at this moment."

Representative Robert Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, also called for shelving the fight over Vieques, though he said it was a difficult decision for him.

"I think we have to recognize the reality of the moment," Mr. Menendez said.

Even **Gov. Sila María Calderón** of Puerto Rico, who has been urging the Bush administration to end the bombing practices immediately, does not believe that this is the time to engage in a debate over the Navy's presence in Vieques, an adviser said.

"Governor Calderón's position on Vieques is well known," the adviser said. "But she believes that this is a time

to focus attention on the recovery effort."

The shift in attitude occurred even as the Navy resumed its bombing practice on the eastern tip of Vieques this week, a move that has not provoked the kind of protests that similar exercises have in the past.

Anti-Navy organizers on the island, mindful of the mood in the rest of the country, have agreed not to engage in civil disobedience for the time being. But hostility against the Navy's presence has not abated.

"This is not over," said **Carmen Valencia**, who opposes the Naval exercises. "This can't be over because the Navy is still bombing our island."

The Navy has conducted exercises on

CMC Against Combining San Diego-Pendleton

SAN DIEGO ---- Moving the Marine Corps Recruit Depot from San Diego to Camp Pendleton is a bad idea, the top officer of the Marine Corps, **Gen. James L. Jones**, said recently.

Jones said he saw no benefits to a suggestion made last week by **Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham**, that the two bases be combined at Camp Pendleton. Jones said he planned to meet with Cunningham to discuss possible military base closures and other issues.

"You don't mix missions," Jones said, speaking with reporters after attending a breakfast hosted by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Radisson Hotel in Mission Valley, CA.

"Operations and training are two different things," he said. "We've looked long and hard at putting MCRD at Camp Pendleton ... it's not the prudent thing to do."

The recruit depot in San Diego has been training new Marines for 80 years. Camp Pendleton was created at the outset of World War II in 1942 to prepare and oversee Marine deployments and operations throughout the Pacific hemisphere. Recruits for decades have spent their final weeks at Camp Pendleton, learning rifleman skills and other basic skills.

Camp Pendleton may appear big to some people, Jones said. But the base,

Vieques for more than 50 years.

Military officials argue that the island is a valuable training site because it enables the armed forces to conduct naval, aerial and amphibious exercises simultaneously.

President Bush, under heavy pressure to resolve the Vieques issue, has set the Navy's withdrawal for May 2003. But that plan has come under intense attack from critics who contend that the bombings pose a danger to local residents.

None of the people interviewed said they had changed their mind about their ultimate goal: to move the Navy operations. But they worried that the nation's military readiness would be undermined if the Navy was driven from Vieques now.

home to about 36,000 Marines and sailors, uses all the space available, and is limited by environmental constraints.

The Marine Corps lost its Orange County air stations at Tustin and El Toro in previous rounds of base closures. Those squadrons now operate out of the

(See **BOOT CAMP**, Page 3)

2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DETACHMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 10

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
OCTOBER 13

BIRTHDAY BALL
NOVEMBER 10

DETACHMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 14

DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 12

DETACHMENT MEETING
JANUARY 9

DETACHMENT MEETING
FEBRUARY 13



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 September 12, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Public Relations Officer. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr.** and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth.**

The Minutes of the August Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

Sick Call: Mess Sergeant Wil Haas' wife Agnes is in the hospital.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce informed the members he could produce place mats for the detachment and gave a brief on the Department Rifle Match and the Fall Department Staff Meeting.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported the Orion Club at Willow Grove has been reserved for the Birthday Ball and a DeeJay has been contracted to provide the music. Menu selections will be either Roast Beef or Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported the Detachment had received no correspondence other than that which had already been reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that all members of the detachment may now wear the National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon which was awarded to the Department of Pennsylvania at the National Marine Corps League Convention by **National Commandant Diana Dils.**

The Marine Corps League has changed its membership requirements to allow full membership to FMF-trained Navy Corpsmen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10.

BOOT CAMP

(From Page 2)

former Navy air station at Miramar, where they can be near Navy piers and airfields in San Diego.

"The present organization is logical and efficient," Jones said. "It reflects the way the Navy and Marines work together."

Jones, in remarks to the chamber members, also talked about the importance of maintaining the Marine Corps base in Okinawa, Japan.

"There is no spot that is more geographically important to us in terms of locating large forces," he said. The location allows the United States to keep military personnel and equipment within

striking distance of key interests.

Marines on Okinawa have developed close relationships with the local community, he said, adding that too often the press prints only negative stories about the base.

He also talked about the problem-plagued program to replace the Corps' aging fleet of CH-46 helicopters with the tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft.

Last year 14 Marines from Camp Pendleton and one from Miramar died with a four-man flight crew when their Osprey crashed during a training exercise in Arizona. This year eight Marine officers have been charged with falsifying maintenance records for the aircraft.

Problems with the aircraft are being

corrected, he said.

"Tilt-rotor technology is not rocket science," Jones said. "It is a mature technology. It is absolutely important that we bring this on-line. It will lighten the load in the crowded airspace around our runways."

Jones also said the Marine Corps needs to focus on being "better businessmen" by reforming its acquisition procedures and by retiring systems such as the CH-46 that have become too old to maintain efficiently.

Overall, Jones said, the Corps remains healthy. It has met its recruiting goals and has had little trouble retaining people in recent years, unlike other military branches.

DOD NEWS BRIEFS

Deployment Pay Crunch Nears

Although the Navy and the Marine Corps have urged a delay in paying excessive deployment pay, the House has shown no effort to grant relief. The Army and Air Force have indicated they have no problem with the law as written. Because each service must fund the pay from its own budget, this means that budgetary problems faced by the sea services will not effect them. To complicate matters, according to sources, the Navy and Marines have not specified how many troops might meet the excessive deployment criteria. The pay of \$100 per day is supposed to go to service members deployed for more than 400 days in a 730-day period. The count-down began last October 1, meaning that some members could log 400 days of deployment as early as this November.

Tricare Prime Gets Cost Cut

The Interim Waived Charges Benefit is a new cost-saving program for uniformed services active duty family members living with sponsors assigned to remote locations, 50 miles or a one-hour drive from a military treatment facility. The IWCB, retroactive to October 30, 2000, will continue until the Tricare Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Member program begins in 2002. Regional managed care support contractors will review claims processed during the interim benefit period and issue reimbursement checks with an Explanation of Benefits, so family members need take no action for reimbursement. Family members must utilize network providers when available to receive the waived charges benefit. In locations where network providers are not available, family members must use Tricare authorized providers. Call the regional toll-free number or 1-877-DOD-CARE for assistance in finding network providers.

No Special Registration Needed for Tricare for Life Service

Officials are advising Medicare-eligible

military retirees, spouses and survivors that no special beneficiary card will be needed to receive outpatient care under the Tricare-for-Life program that kicked off October 1. Neither does an existing Uniformed Services Identification card have to be replaced to show eligibility for TFL, regardless of the medical expiration date shown on the back. A beneficiary needs only the current ID card (validated in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System's database) and a Medicare card showing participation in Medicare Part B. For such beneficiaries, providers who accept Medicare patients and are paid by Medicare will also be paid by Tricare. Medicare will pay first and Tricare second or after other health insurance. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who did not receive an information package can call 1-888-363-5433.

Navy Adds Lump-sum OTEP Bonuses

After evaluating the other services' usage rates for two years, the Navy has elected to add \$2,000 bonus option to the Overseas Tour Extension Program. The up-front bonus will be one of four options. The others \$80 extra per month (number of months unspecified), 30 days extra leave for R&R, or 15 days R&R with a free round-trip commercial flight to the continental U.S. To be eligible for OTEP a sailor must: (1) serve in a job that counts as overseas sea duty Type 3 or 4, or Type 2 sea duty in Hawaii; (2) have at least 12 months of obligated service remaining after completing a current tour; and (3) agree to spend at least 12 more months overseas.

VA Prioritizing Older Veterans' Applications

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has announced that the VA's 57 regional claims offices will pull an estimated 6,000 applications of veterans age 70 or older that have been pending for more than a year. A special team in Cleveland will tackle that workload

as a top national priority, then will move to 17,000 of the longest-pending claims of other veterans whose claims have been pending more than a year. VA also is focusing at nine centers on 58,000 more claims from other veterans who have waited more than a year for a decision. Even after the backlog of the long-pending claims of older veterans is reduced, VA will keep in place new rules to raise the priority of all applications of veterans who are age 70 or older.

State Department Wants Military Talent

The U.S. State Department is seeking veterans and transitioning service members to fill badly needed positions. The Department will recruit 1,433 new Foreign and Civil Service positions in fiscal 2002, which is a 43 percent jump above fiscal 2001. Recruiters are visiting military installations in San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle, several cities in Florida, North and South Carolina, and the Washington, D.C. area, and military career fairs and employment panels. For information on Foreign Service careers, go to www.foreignservicecareers.gov or call (202) 261-8888. Individuals with technical and administrative skills should visit www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/specialist/ or call (202) 261- 8851.

DoD Revisiting Twenty-Year Retirement System

Top officials at the Defense Department have put the 20-year military retirement system on the table and are questioning every aspect of it. Although, according to **Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld**, any changes would be phased in slowly, some ideas would create major changes if instituted. Examples given: accrued retirement before 20 years; different career lengths for different specialties; longer tours of duty for members fitted for such tours; opportunities for service longer than 30 years; and creation of a cadre of fast-track senior officers who would spend much of their working lives in uniform.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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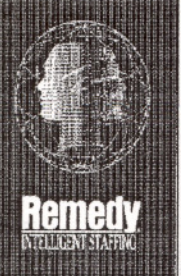
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