



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVII, Number 10

OCTOBER 2005

Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER

Editor: DON H. GEE



**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
JAMES POWELL**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES McCOMB**

**ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH**

**PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM**

**QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF**

**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**

V-A Rechecking PTSD Stress Claims

GLENVILLE, N.Y. — The government is going to take a new look at the claims of about a third of the military veterans who now get disability payments for post-traumatic stress disorder (search).

The Veterans Affairs Department will begin a yearlong review next month of 72,000 cases after an internal study found inconsistencies in the way the claims were decided, including many cases approved though they lacked required medical evidence.

Millions of dollars a year could be involved.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, a mental illness characterized by subjective symptoms like flashbacks and nightmares, can be difficult to diagnose and quantify.

The review will cover veterans whose claims were approved between 1999 and 2004 and who receive full disability benefits -- \$2,299 a month -- for PTSD alone or in combination with other conditions, said VA spokesman Phil Budahn.

The review won't consider the other side of the question, whether some veterans were wrongly denied benefits, and that has some critics upset.

"We need to pay as much attention to improper denials as we do to improper grants," said Illinois Rep. Lane Evans, ranking Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (search).

Budahn said the VA could look at that later, "but first we're just going to keep our focus on the problem that's been identified."

Randy Reese, national service director for Disabled American Veterans, complained that the review would divert resources from the VA's backlog of several hundred thousand disability claims yet to be processed.

Last year, the VA spent \$4.3 billion on PTSD disability payments, not including medical care.

The number of vets receiving compensation benefits for the illness rose nearly 80 percent between 1999 and 2004 -- from 120,265 to 215,871. During the same period, benefits for all types of disabilities grew by just 12 percent, to about 2.5 million.

So far, about 10 percent of the stress syndrome increase comes from veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Budahn said.

Some experts say PTSD is diagnosed too readily. "PTSD went from being problematic being accepted as a condition, to being almost too easily accepted," said Wilbur Scott, a University of Oklahoma sociologist who has written about the disorder.

Budahn attributed the increase mostly to rising awareness of the illness, thanks to education efforts by the VA, veterans' organizations and health care workers.

If the current review finds a veteran's claim does not include adequate proof of a "stressor" -- the specific event or events that trigger the mental illness -- the veteran will be asked to provide more information and could ultimately lose benefits.

(See *PTSD*, Page 2)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Summer is finally over. The conventions and reunions are history. I'm quite frankly conventioned and reunions out. I did a lot of traveling, met a lot of new people, and hooked up with some old friends. I really enjoyed it, however, it tired me out to a certain degree. Now we can get down to some real business.

The next thing on the agenda is the Birthday Ball. It was earlier reported that we would be co-hosting this year's ball with the Montgomery County Detachment. That's not the case. We are being invited to attend their ball being held on Friday November 11th at the Blair Mill Inn in Horsham. This relieves us of any financial responsibility. We'll go and enjoy their hospitality and walk away clean. It will be a sit down dinner with a price of \$50.00 per person. I'll only be involved in the ceremonial portion. Our detachment is planning to have a cake cutting ceremony with the Young Marines in attendance at our November 9th regular meeting. Awards will be given out at that time. I'm requesting that the MCL class "A" uniform (red blazer) be worn that night. Family members and guests are invited as well. I hope to see a large turnout.

It has come to my attention that Peggy Sundling is requesting that items for the troops be sent to her, brought in, or whatever asap so that she can get a shipment off for a December arrival. Keep in mind that these items go directly to our Marines serving abroad. chment members put on their thinking caps and submit a members name to the Chairman of the Marine of the Year Committee, Marine Bill Jerrom. This has to be done by the October 12th meeting. Sent

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.

it to his home address or the detachment PO box in Doylestown, or just bring it to the meeting.

On October 23rd there will be Memorial service marking the anniversary of the Beirut bombing of the BLT barracks in 1983. It will be held at the Monument site in Philadelphia on Columbus Blvd. in the same area as the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. There will be color guards from MCL detachments present and we are invited to participate as well. I was there last year it was a very much attended by veterans from all branches of the military but mostly Marines. Try to make it if you

can. It starts at 1000 on Sunday the 23rd.

Lastly, it is my sad duty to report that we have recently lost another member of our detachment to the Supreme Commandant. Dennis Stanislaw passed away about a month ago. Dennis served our detachment for awhile as Sergeant at Arms.

Don Gee and I were on hand to render a final salute.

Semper Fi!



Bill Miller

PTSD

Proof of a service-related triggering event is one of the VA's few hard and fast requirements for PTSD disability benefits.

The inspector general's report last May found that more than 25 percent of the PTSD cases reviewed lacked adequate proof of a service-related stressor.

"Some disabilities are inherently prone to subjective rating decisions, especially conditions such as PTSD where much of the information needed to make a rating decision is not physically apparent," VA inspector general Richard Griffin said. "This subjectivity leads to inconsistency."

Valid stressors can be difficult to prove.

"Sometimes it's a bureaucratic nightmare to get the evidence. People in wartime aren't sitting there with a steno pad keeping good records," said Mary Ellen McCarthy, Democratic staff director for the House Veterans subcommittee on disability assistance.

The VA said it would work with vets to help them prove their cases. It will also be on guard for possible fraud -- one vet in the sample review last spring submitted as evidence a personal ac-

(From Page 1)

count written by someone else and published on the Internet.

Some Iraq war vets with PTSD say identifying a single, specific stressor can be arbitrary.

"I think the whole year over there (in Iraq) was my stressor, but they actually wanted a specific incident," said Jesus Bocanegra, 23, of McAllen, Texas. His disability status won't be part of the review because it was approved this year. "I just gave them two."

Col. Charles Hoge, chief of psychiatry and behavior services at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, said that while most service members with PTSD can identify incidents that affected them deeply -- for instance, their worst firefight, losing a buddy or seeing injured children -- "the reality is that there are also stressors that are ongoing."

Hoge has found evidence of PTSD symptoms in about 15 percent to 17 percent of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"For most people who go into a war environment, it will affect them in some way," Hoge said. "An important minority of people are going to be affected to the degree that they need treatment."

Highlights

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held September 14, 2005, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 18 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzaneze Sr., 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 August Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported on the National Convention in Cleveland, OH. He informed the members the Department Quarterly Staff & Member Meeting will be held on Oct. 12 at the Department Headquarters at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. He also relayed a letter from All Divisions Detachment notifying the Detachment there will be a Memorial Service at the Beirut Memorial at 10 a.m. on Oct. 23. He also let the members know that a new Marine Corps League license plate is now available. The Commandant also read a letter from the Krout Family acknowledging the detachment's donation to the Doylestown Hospice in memory of Marine Ray Krout's wife Mary Alice.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment strength at 52 including 22 Life Members, 23 Regular Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are 6 members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Jim McComb reported on plans for the joint All Divisions-Central Bucks Detachments' Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications in addition to that reported by the Commandant.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, set October 15 as the date for the next highway clean-up. Members will meet at 8 a.m. at the restaurant at the corner of Furlong Rd. & Old York Rd. for breakfast on the Detachment before proceeding with the clean-up.

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, reported on the Unit's trip to 8th & I. He also reported the Young Marines are planning a trip to the USS INTREPID.

RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM--In the absence of Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger, Team Member Budd Pearce, PC, reported the department Rifle Match will be held on Sept. 23.

MARINE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS--Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom reminded the members to submit nominations for Marine of the Year by the October Meeting. It was also pointed out that nominations should be fully documented and the performance of the nominee should be limited to the past year, not for performance over a number of years.

PUBLIC RELATIONS--The Public Relations Officer set Sept. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the October LISTEN UP! He also reported on attending the Sept. 9 Dedication Ceremony for the Gen. Raymond G. Davis Building at Quantico, VA, and the “

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to have the Detachment cover the costs of reproducing the booklet Commandant Miller had obtained about Detachment Administration was made, seconded and unanimously accepted.

A motion was made to donate \$100 to the Katrina Relief Fund. It was unanimously accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past Commandant Sundling reported his son, Bob, is scheduled to graduate recruit training on Oct. 23.

The Young Marines Unit will attend the Detachment's November Meeting to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
AND
CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENTS
230TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Friday, November 11, 2005
From 1930 to 2330

The Blair Mill Inn
3855 Blair Mill Road, Horsham, PA 19044

\$50 per person

Menu

Soup

Minestrone

Salad

Spring Mix with Mandarin Orange Segments, Spiced Pecans,
Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing

Entrée

Filet Mignon with Sautéed Herb Mushrooms

Baked Fresh Norwegian Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

Boneless Breast of Chicken Oscar with Lump Crabmeat, Topped
With Fresh Asparagus in a Light Cream Sauce

New York Style Creamy Cheesecake, garnished with a Strawberry
Grand Marnier Sauce

From: _____

Entrée choices (enter number for each)

Filet Mignon _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Please make checks payable to: **Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League**

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please respond by Friday, October 21, 2005 to: Jim McComb
4503 Country View Drive
Doylestown, PA 18901

MV-904SO (09-04)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Bureau of Motor Vehicles
 Special Tag Unit
P.O. Box 68293
 Harrisburg, PA 17106-8293

**APPLICATION FOR
 SPECIALTY
 REGISTRATION PLATE**
Fee: \$20.00

(PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL FEES CHARGED BY THE ORGANIZATION)

▲ FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY ▲

A VEHICLE DESCRIPTION AND APPLICANT INFORMATION <i>(complete this section exactly as information appears on current registration card)</i>					
TITLE NUMBER		CURRENT REG. PLATE #		CURRENT EXPIRATION	MAKE OF VEHICLE
YEAR					
LAST NAME		JR., etc.	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INIT.	TELEPHONE NUMBER
					() HOME _____
					() WORK _____
STREET ADDRESS - Must list a street address. P.O. Box # alone is not acceptable.			CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
In conjunction with replacement of your plate, you will receive one registration card. If additional registration cards are desired, the fee is \$1.50 for each card.					How many extra registration cards do you want? _____
B TO BE COMPLETED BY ORGANIZATION					
NAME OF ORGANIZATION:					
NAME OF ORGANIZATION, CHAPTER, POST, LODGE, EMPLOYER, etc.				TELEPHONE NUMBER	
				()	
STREET ADDRESS			CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
C TO BE COMPLETED BY ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL <i>(see special instructions below)</i>					
I certify that the individual named in Section A is a member in good standing of the organization listed in Section B:					
NAME OF ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL		TITLE		SIGNATURE	
				X	
D I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT WHEN I CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ABOVE NAMED ORGANIZATION, I WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN THE REGISTRATION PLATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.					
X _____			APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE IN INK		DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING A SPECIALTY PLATE

- This application, with Sections A and D completed in full, must be returned to the organization official for submission to the Department. No applications sent directly to the Department by the organization member will be processed. All applications must be sent to the Department by the organization.
- The applicant listed in Section A must be a registered owner of the vehicle as indicated on the vehicles registration credential. If the vehicle is a leased vehicle, Form MV-1L, "Application for Lessee Information", must be completed and attached.
- Fee required with this application is \$20.00. The participating organizations may charge additional fees to offset the cost of plate production and a contribution to the organization. Please contact the organization representative for correct payment method. **DO NOT SEND CASH.**
- No specialty plate will be duplicated. If your plate is lost, stolen or defaced, we will reissue you the next available plate in our series for \$7.50. To apply for a replacement, complete Form MV-44 and submit the required fee.
- Requests for specialty registration plates are restricted to passenger vehicles, trucks and motorhomes with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 lbs. **Motorcycles and trailers do not qualify for specialty registration plates.**
- **NO REFUND OF FEE** will be issued when applicant cancels request after order is placed.
- When the applicant ceases to be a member in the organization or ceases to be a notary public as listed in Section B, the registration plate must be returned to the Department. Complete Form MV-44 and submit a fee of \$7.50 for reissue of a regular series registration plate.
- Specialty plates are issued in number sequence only and may not be personalized.
- To avoid possible problems with citations with your old registration plate, return it to: Department of Transportation, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Return Tag Unit, P.O. Box 68597, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8597 after you have received your special organization plate.
- Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - SECTION C

- If applicant is a notary applying for a notary public plate, the applicant's notary seal must be affixed in this section instead of an official's signature.
- If applying for a Fraternal Order of Police plate, the PA State Lodge seal and the PA State Lodge Recording Secretary signature must be affixed to this application.



THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEW PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES. ANYONE WHO CURRENTLY HAS A MCL PLATE MAY KEEP THE ORIGINAL NUMBER BY FILLING OUT THE NEW APPLICATION AND PAYING THE \$30.00 FEE PRIOR TO 10 NOVEMBER 2005. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT POST MARKED BY 10 NOVEMBER 2005 YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL NUMBER ON THE NEW PLATE. ANYONE WHO HAS THE ORIGINAL PLATE MAY KEEP THAT PLATE AND THE ORIGINAL NUMBER. MEMBERS WISHING TO OBTAIN THE NEW PLATE CAN ALSO FILE AN APPLICATION AT THIS TIME AND WILL BE ISSUED THE NEXT NUMBER IN THE SEQUENCE. NO PLATES WILL BE PROCESSED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA UNTIL AFTER 10 NOVEMBER 2005. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO PDC JOHN J. MOYSE AT 401 S NEW ARDMORE AVENUE, BROOMALL, PA 19008-2480. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "MCL of PA, Inc.". ALL APPLICATIONS SENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER AND NOT PROCESSED. CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO THE "PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION" WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION AND NOT PROCESSED. ANY QUESTIONS OR REQUEST FOR THE APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY TO PDC MOYSE AT 610-353-2851 OR jjmoyses@comcast.net. APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.pamcleague.org/> AND SCROLL DOWN TO MCL PLATES.

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



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"