

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXI, Number 10

OCTOBER 2008

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Editor: DON H. GEE

PANEL RECOMMENDS MILITARY RETIREMENT CHANGES

A panel looking at military compensation has recommended dramatic changes in the military retirement system.

The recommendations are part of the second volume put out by the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

The first volume--released in March--looked at cash compensation. Retired **Air Force BrigGen. Jan D. "Denny" Eakle** was director of the panel.

Eakle said critics of the current military retirement system say it is not equitable, it is not flexible, and it is not efficient.

"There is a perception that the system we have today is inequitable because only 15 percent of all enlisted personnel and less than half of officers will ever receive anything in the system," she said.

Reserve-component personnel also believe the current system discriminates against them, especially at a time when reserve forces are being called on more, she said.

The retirement proposal would offer a defined benefit, defined contributions, "gate" pays and separation pays.

The defined benefit would be 2.5 percent of the average basic pay for the highest 36 months of the individual's career multiplied by the number of years of service, with servicemembers vested at 10 years of service.

Payments to retirees would begin at age 60 for those with less than 20 years of service and at age 57 for those with 20 years of service or more.

Servicemembers could opt for an im-

mediate annuity, but the payout would follow the Federal Employee Retirement System methodology--a 5 percent penalty per year for early withdrawal.

The defined contribution portion would be an automatic government-funded Thrift Savings Plan. Servicemembers would not have to match any government payment. The government would not put any money in for the first year, but would put in 2 percent of base pay for two years of service, 3 percent for three and four years of service, and 5 percent for five and more years of service. Again, this would be vested after 10 years of service.

The military also would make "gate

pays" to servicemembers who reach specific years of service. These would vary by years of service and skills, Eakle said.

Finally, the system would include separation pays to servicemembers that would also vary by years of service and skills.

Any change in the retirement system would require action by Congress. DoD officials said they will carefully examine the panel's recommendations and then decide if they should move forward. The study will take at least six to 12 months, so any decision would be made by the next administration, DoD officials added.

Marine Corps Launches New Web Site

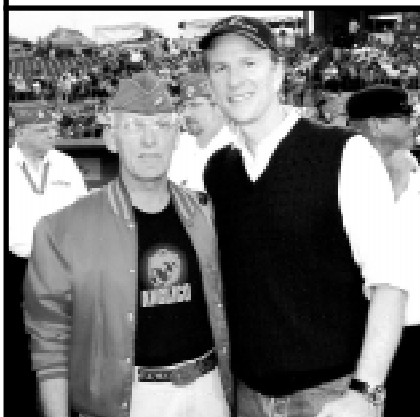
The Marine Corps has relaunched its Web Site, incorporating an updated look, video player, and a new community section at www.marines.mil.

"The new Web Site will reduce the Corps' security vulnerabilities, upgrade an aging infrastructure and position the Marine Corps to effectively compete in the information battlespace," Corps officials said in Marine Administrative Message 214/08.

The visual upgrades catch up the Corps' home on the Web with several other military Web Sites. It includes an interactive calendar of events and MarinesTV, which features videos narrated by Marines stationed around the world.

One downside for the new site: many MarAdmin messages and news stories can no longer be found through Google and other Internet search engines.

FULL METAL JACKET Star



MATTHEW MODINE, who starred as Marine Combat Correspondent "Joker" in the movie "Full Metal Jacket" chatted with Past Commandant Bob Sundling at the Commerce Bank Ball Park in Bridgewater, NJ, on Saturday, Aug. 30.



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

Summer is finally over and it was another busy one indeed. Vacations, the Department Convention/Grand Growl and the National Convention/Supreme Growl in Orlando made for an eventful summer. I hope everyone had a great summer.

The National Convention provided a lot interest this year as the leadership of the League changed

hands and there were many ByLaws changes up for vote. As you may already know, **Jim Laskey**, from the Department of Massachusetts, was elected your new National Commandant. Also, there were 35 proposed changes to the National Bylaws and only 16 were approved by the membership body. If you would like to see these proposed changes more in depth, I would invited you to go onto the Department of Florida website (www.mclfl.org) and look at the Proposed National ByLaws Amendment link.

Now that fall is here, we have a few points of business to finish up. On Sept. 20, we will be participating in the annual Nockomixon Day celebration in Revere, PA. We will be performing Color Guard duties during the celebration and will man a table to try to get new members. This will be our fourth year that we have attended the celebration. Hopefully, we will get a good turn out.

Then, on Sunday, Oct. 26, the All Divisions Detachment will be sponsoring the 25th Anniversary observance to honor those killed in the Marine Barrack bombing in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. It will

take place at Fogleitta Plaza in Penns Landing in Philadelphia. It will begin at 10 a.m. I have attended the past three years and will be there again this year.

The ceremony is fairly short and usually well attended by many Marine Corps League Detachments. I'm hoping that we can again display our Colors at this ceremony. Please try to make time to attend to represent your Detachment and honor those fallen Marines.

Next up would be our November Meeting and the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. We touched on this during the September meeting and it seems that again there is not much interest in the Detachment sponsoring a ball.

We will also be working on moving our November Meeting so that we have enough room for a cake-cutting ceremony when we have our Young Marines Unit in attendance.

We will formalize these at the October meeting.

Hope to see you then.

Semper Fi,

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
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES

ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC

JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES McCOMB

QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER

CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
VINCENT J. HAGAN

WEB SERGEANT
JOSEPH F. DOHERTY

LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

We **still** need someone familiar with desktop publishing to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detach-

ment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

SEPTEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of **Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc.**, of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held September 10, 2008, at Advanced Medical Solutions, 54 E. Oakland St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce** and **Bob Sundling**; **Southeast District Vice Commandant, Past Commandant** and **Marine of the Year Bill Miller**; and **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**.

The **Minutes** of the August Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and unanimously accepted.

New Member: Marine Ryan J. Gregan, who was accepted for membership during the August Meeting, was administered the Marine Corps League Oath, denoting full membership in the Detachment.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on correspondence received from All Divisions Detachment about the 25th Anniversary observance of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Lebanon on Sunday, Oct. 26. The Detachment Color Guard has been requested for this event. He also reported on the National Convention he attended with **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**. Highlights included a discussion of the League's budget and the defeat of the proposed ByLaws changes adversely effecting Departments and Detachments.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment strength at 54 including 25 Life Members, 24 Annual Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported he will be distributing Department Raffle Tickets at the October Meeting. Plans for the Birthday Ball are on hold due to an apparent lack of interest among Detachment members. He is exploring the possibilities of joining with MAG-49 for its celebration.

The **Adjutant** reported he had received no communications other than that already discussed. He reported he would include a "tear-out" page in the next *LISTEN UP!* so he could start maintaining a Detachment "SRB" on each member. He will update the awards and medals for each member and will return a copy of the completed SRB to the individual member.

Judge Advocate Jim McComb reported the Detachment's tax returns had been filed and the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the August Meeting.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported his services were available but no requested since the last meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported the Detachment had again been requested to participate in the annual Nockamixon Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 20. He also reminded the members about Nockamixon Day on Saturday, Sept. 20. Volunteers from the Detachment are need to man our recruiting table and to serve on the Color Guard for the opening and closing ceremonies. Contact him at (USMCCCA@aol.com or ph: 215-822-6898). He set the deadline of Sept. 20 for submissions for the October issue of "*Listen Up!*"

Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment was cited at the National Convention for achieving 100% Membership Renewal in the past year. He presented a plaque to Commandant Powell signifying the achievement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported on the trip the Young Marines took to Washington to view the final Sunset Parade of the season (which had **President George W. Bush** as the Guest of Honor) and to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico.

Marine of the Year Chairman Bill Miller reminded the members that written nominations with justification are due by the next meeting. Nominations should be sent or given to him anytime (billjae@verizon.net or ph: 215-943-0133) between now and the October Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Past Commandant Gee reported on his contact with the local Boy Scout Executive and recommended the Detachment rethink pursuing this program since the Executive made it obvious he did not want Detachment members involved in the Court of Honor.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell reminded the members that Life Member dues will be increased on January 1. He offered installment payments to the members who would like to take advantage of Life Membership before the increase (*see Page 4*). Anyone interested should contact the Adjutant/Paymaster (USMCCCA@aol.com or ph: 215-822-6898) to make arrangements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL SERVICE RECORD

PERSONAL DATA

NAME (Last, First M.I.):		DATE OF BIRTH:
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE & NINE-DIGIT ZIPCODE:		SPOUSE:
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	
FAX:	E-MAIL:	

MARINE CORPS/MILITARY SERVICE

From (Month/Year):	To (Month/Year):
MOS:	MOS Title:

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Date Joined (Month/Year):	Sponsor:
Chronology of Service	
Office Held	Inclusive Dates

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

**LIFE MEMBER
BLAZER CREST**



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

**DETACHMENT
T-SHIRT**



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

**DETACHMENT
LICENSE PLATE**



\$10.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact
Quartermaster COREY FISHER

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com



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 **\$35.00** 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"