



The Straight Scoop

Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339



Volume 9, Issue 10, October 2016

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Department Financial Report Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation: 17 August 2016 beginning balance: \$8,741.12 Deposits: \$1,950.00 Debits: \$0.00 Interest: \$2.55. 21 September 2016 ending balance: \$10,693.67.

Please send all scholarship donations to John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234.

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia General Account and Paymaster Report: 17 August 2016 statement beginning balance: \$19,991.94. Deposits: \$2,043.13 Debits: \$2,909.34. 21 September 2016 statement ending balance: \$19,125.73.

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE



Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and Associate members:

Our motivation and dedication to the MCL was set in high gear when we rolled out of Logan, WV after holding an informative and very productive Dept. general business meeting on Sept. 10, 2016. Special thanks to the Danny M. Green Detachment 577 for making everyone feel right at home and for the great chow! Job well done Marines!!!

After the Dept. officer and committee chairmen reports, we moved straight into Professional Development training discussing filing your Det. 990-N, properly conducting detachment business meetings as per our MCL ritual and properly recording and filing minutes of the meeting. We also discussed Board of Trustee voting, recording

and reporting results of the BOT voting to the membership.

Our Dept. Membership and Retention Team held a class on filling out transmittals for the new MCL membership dues renewal date of August 31.

Our Dept. Marine 4 Life committee discussed veteran employment benefits and what the Dept. is doing to bring awareness and provide information to help curve the epidemic of veteran suicide.

A full report on the Dept. of WV 2016 flood relief efforts was presented to the membership. The remaining flood relief funds received by the Dept. were distributed to our Marine families affected by the flood. This concludes the Dept. flood relief efforts for 2016. Great Job Marines!

After a successful Dept. Pistol Raffle last year, the membership decided to donate some funds to pass it forward.

\$1000.00 to Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Fund
\$500 to the Tri-State Young Marines Program
\$500.00 to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery Honor Guard
\$100.00 to YCF for Pfc Andrew "Bo" Harper Scholarship Fund. Bo was KIA in Afghanistan.
\$241.00 to Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 for the Beirut Memorial Fund.
\$500.00 to the Choctaw Detachment 778 for the MCL Department of Louisiana Flood Relief.

Our efforts to secure the 2018 National Convention Bid in Tulsa did not come to pass, however, the members in attendance in Logan decided to resubmit our bid with some modifications. We will resubmit our bid to host the 2018 MCL National Convention in Charleston, WV at the MCL National Mid-Winter Conference in March of 2017. Last time we knocked on the door, this time we will kick it in!

As we all know we are living in some turbulent times in our country. We must remain vigilant and continue to enjoy the freedoms that have been granted to us by the men and women who have given their lives for our Nation.

Please keep our Armed Forces and our First Responders in your thoughts and prayers as they serve in harm's way.

Semper Fidelis,
Rick Shank
Commandant
Dept. of WV MCL

A message from the National Commandant

Attention National Headquarters will be closed September 26th through September 30th in order to move to our new building. The new address is: 3619 Jefferson Davis Highway Suite 115, Stafford VA 22554. In case of an emergency please call 717-398-5647 or 703-969-0726 Attention

September 21, 2016
Marines,

It has been one month since we were all in Tulsa, Ok. enjoying ourselves at our National Convention, and its time to fill everyone in on what we are doing to improve the League.

A little info to pass on about the Banquet at the Convention. In attendance at the Convention we had a total of 840 members, or delegates, in attendance who were very active in attending all business sessions, as well as teaching modules, as they were conducted at daily sessions, for the membership. They were well received and a great many questions were asked for clarification and open dialogue for future classes. These classes will continue into the future and if there are fields of instruction that you wish to see conducted, please make your Division Vices aware of them so they can be put on the agenda.

In connection with our strong relationship with the "Young Marines" of the MCL, your Board of Trustees attended a instructional course that was presented by officers of that affiliate, to update them on the requirements and responsibilities to sit on a Corporate Board. This is all part of our efforts to bring the league into the 21st Century and better represent you at board meetings. It was very well received, and I assure you that there were tons of questions asked and a lot of relevant answers forwarded to our board. The blinders were in essence taken off, and reality checks absorbed by all. It was a great session and my thanks to those in attendance. All for the good of the league.

Chief C.O. Smith has advised me that the dogs had a great growl and many new pedigrees were initiated and earned the gold dog collar. I did hear a lot of barking and growling going on but fortunately not many wet spots were seen on the carpets in the hotel. From me to all dogs, thank you for all you do. I understand there are many children in Tulsa who are also very appreciative for your big bone donation, to the hospital. "It's great to be a dog".

Within the next few weeks we will have made the transition into our new HQ, in Quantico, Va. "The Crossroads of the Corps". We are in the business of recruiting and assisting Marines and we will be able to fulfill that mission where the Marines are. "QUANTICO". We are hoping to have the "Tree of Lights" ceremony held at our conference center in the new HQ and there will be plenty of room for attendance. Boxes are being packed and the move is set to take place. We ask your indulgence as the computers have to be moved and set up, so there may be some delays. We have a great IT team and it should not take long. Phone calls may still be made as the lines will be set in place.

I would like to thank all of you who were in attendance at the banquet on Friday night for being there to meet and greet the Commandant & Sgt/Maj. when they arrived. We had 523 people in attendance at the banquet and I believe a good time was had by all. Commandant Neller's remarks and presentation were outstanding and we, as Marines, were very fortunate to have both with us at one time. I can assure you that he is now very aware of our capabilities to assist him with transitioning Marines.

To the Albert Schwabb Detachment. I do not believe we can put into words our expressions for the great work you did on this convention. It was indeed a pleasure to have you share your world with us and make us aware of who you are and why our nation is so great. It is indeed my great pleasure to call you brothers and sisters and understand the hardships you endured and the sacrifices you made to ensure America remains great. "Thank you my Friends and Brothers". You gave us great honor.

From Sept. 25, to Sept. 29 we will be attending MDM at MCB Quantico, where we will be meeting with the leaders of industry who will present the latest tools with which our Corps will have available to use in future engagements. If you are in the area come on out and join us during this time. We will be happy to see you and show you around.

"Semper Fi"

Richard D. Gore, Sr.
National Commandant
Marine Corps League

Chaplain's Corner - Frank Armentrout

THERE REALLY WAS A JESUS

You can trust the Holy Bible from the first, page to the last. You can trust what it says about the future, and what it says about the past.

There really was a Noah, who built an ark with a hammer and a nail. There really was a Jonah, who lived after being swallowed by a whale.

There really was a town called Sodom, destroyed by fire and brimstone from above. And God really did feed the Hebrews with manna sent to them with love.

There really was a Virgin Mary, who conceived Jesus in her womb. And it's true He came to life again, after being buried in a tomb.

It's true Jesus healed the sick, and gave sight to those who couldn't see. It's true He healed the deaf, and walked on the sea of Galilee.

He healed some who couldn't walk, and raised three persons from the dead. He fed a multitude with only two fish and five loaves of bread.

The Bible tells us of Hell....a place for those not forgiven of their sin. And it tells us of Heaven....a place Christ's disciples are sure to enter in.

The Bible speaks of many things....some easy, some hard to understand. but the bible can be fully trusted, for it came from God's almighty hand.

So, don't pass judgment on the Bible. It's always right, never wrong. for God has given all it's contents ,and there's not a verse that doesn't belong.

No, don't pass judgment on the Bible. It's God's infallible Word. Just listen to God as you read it. You'll be blessed by what is heard.

Memo from Department HWW Scholarship Foundation Chairman - John Nanny

Detachment Commandants and Straight Scoop Recipients,

Hello Marines. I am writing asking for your help with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation. We are well into another fiscal year and donations are lacking. I would encourage you to have your Detachments send a donation so that we can continue to meet the needs of our qualified applicants.

Another option is to request your detachment do a special fund raiser or send individual contributions so we can shore up our funds for the future. Every little bit goes to meet our goal. Please send all donations to:

HWW Scholarship Foundation
c/o Chairman, John Nanny
Box 2121
Wheeling, WV 26003
Telephone: 304-233-5289 or cell: 304-281-2950

Semper Fi and God Bless

John Nanny

Department Public Relations Officer - Jean Lamb Report of September 10, 2016

Subject: Department Public Relations Officer Report of 2016 - 9 -10

One of the important aspects for recruiting members is getting publicity about the League published. The most cost effective way is by using news releases about Detachment activities, meetings and events.

One of my goals this year as the Dept. Public Relations Officer is to stress to our detachment Commandants how important it is to have contact with newspapers and other media to draw attention to the Marine Corps League, and to create positive visibility within the community. This is important for attracting members, and for attracting funds and donations for Detachment programs.

The detachment Public Relations Officer can be a major factor in advertising the Detachment by maintaining a continuing stream of information flowing to the newspapers for articles, event calendars, and accessing radio and TV with public service announcements (PSAs).

I am pleased with the Dept Newsletter, Dept Brochure and the updated made to our Dept website. The Dept. is actively assisting our detachments with recruiting and advertising using these tools.

Semper Fidelis,
Jean Lamb

Veterans Expo

Who: Veterans Committee for Civic Improvement and American Legion Post 16

What: Veterans Expo

When: 26 October 2016 from 1600 to 2000 (4 pm to 8 pm)

Where: American Legion Post 16, 1421 6th Avenue, Huntington, WV

Please attend if you can. Also pass this information to your fellow Veterans!

Membership

Membership is the life blood of the League. Retention and retaining members should be a high priority of the goals for each detachment. Every Marine is a salesmen and in their daily routine and travels promotes the USMC in so many ways. Carrying oneself as Marines do promotes leadership and confidence. Marines enjoy the company of other Marines and they seek out each other. Meer strangers before meeting, yet Marines thereafter are no longer strangers and look out for each other. The League does the same thing and encourages every Marine to seek out and sign up new members. When you serve on active duty you bond with those members of your unit and the same can be said of the League. As you attend your detachment meetings, department regular meetings and conventions, national staff meetings, Marine expo, and finally National

conventions, you come to enjoy these events as much as a reunion. Because you see a lot of the same people at these events and often times members plan out their vacations, just so they can see each other. Marines have always enjoyed the traditions and rituals that they project as well as the discipline, but they also enjoy having fun. Adding humor and fun into your daily lives and events enhances your life and there's no reason why this can not be done in your league events also. Your past military rank should not be a factor in your league events because after all, membership in the league is voluntary. When you think about the League, you also have to consider some expenses. These might include: purchase uniform items, travel to meeting and conventions, hotel and food costs and other incidentals. Every member made a commitment to sign up so let's get the fun back into the League and do what we can to keep the costs down so more members can attend the League events. Brainstorm, car pool, share expenses, and keep signing up more members so those newly discharged Marines can come home to the Corps and be active in the League. Talk with your local Marine Corps recruiters and get the word to them about the league as Marines being discharged are not being informed of the MCL. Take some brochures to them and invite the recruiters to your events as it will pay dividends.

Detachment Board of Trustees

The Department of West Virginia, including Detachments, which engage in services or business, either profit or non-profit, or which use the name of the Marine Corps League shall be incorporated in accordance with Article Seven, Section 700 of the National Bylaws. Detachments will be incorporated within the State of West Virginia as a IRC 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization with their own Employer Identification Number (EIN) under the Marine Corps League's Group Exemption Number 0955. This allows the Detachment to operate, collect monies for membership and activities, to collect charitable donations for detachment programs, and to act as a corporate entity for sales and other activities, with associated tax benefits for a non-profit entity. Incorporation protects the Officers and members of the Detachment, and by the same measure establishes the limitations for the organization in doing business as a non-profit organization. Therefore, the detachment must be run like a business entity.

To avoid any legal ramifications of membership in the MCL, National HQ requires each detachment to file for corporate status within two years of receiving their charter. A correctly formed and operated Corporation shields each individual member of the League from becoming liable for the satisfaction of any possible court issued judgment. Officers of the Detachment have an ethical and fiduciary responsibility to make decisions in good faith that will bring no harm to the Detachment, and they can be held accountable for their decisions.

Upon incorporation, the controlling body of the Detachment is it's Board of Trustees which includes: Commandant, Sr Vice Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate and Jr Past Detachment Commandant. Each member of the Board of Trustees has the special duty to act in good faith with reasonable judgment for the interest of all it's members and to examine all aspects of the detachment business including adherence to procedures, financial reports, submission of reports and substantiated expense accounts. To do otherwise is break faith with the membership at large and risk personal liability. Full transparency of financial records is imperative for the benefit of the membership.

The Board members must ensure that proper administrative, clerical and financial functions are being performed as necessary by all elected and appointed officers. This includes knowing their detachment EIN number, Charter date and Incorporation date, It also includes: holding monthly meetings and keeping minutes, electing officers annually between October and May and ensuring the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) is submitted, filing of the IRS 990N as soon as possible after June 30 yearly, the audit and completion using the National June 30 detachment membership roster of all Paid Life Members (PLM), Detachment has a Web Sgt and functioning web page, recruitment and retention of members and the filing of Annual Corporate Report prior to July 1 annually. The submission of all membership dues transmittal and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not only limited to these duties but all other that arise. If the board members include the following in their Detachment Monthly Membership Meeting, it creates continuity and serves as a reference for some of the recurring administrative duties. Changes can be made as duties are completed and these should be included in every detachment meeting minutes.

Officer Installation date: EIN: Detachment Charter date: Incorporation date: Locator page
last update: PLM Audit: 990-N-efile date:
Annual Corporate Report filed: Financial Audit date:
Membership totals: PLM: Total Paid: Total Unpaid:

It is the duty of the detachment Board of Trustees to manage the detachment administrative, clerical and financial procedures. It is necessary to ensure that all requirements are completed to maintain your detachment charter and to protect your detachment membership.

The Dept. of WV Marine Corps League is here to support our detachments and to assist the Detachment BOT's if needed with these procedures. If any of these duties are not performed in a timely manner, your detachment is not being managed properly and steps must be taken to ensure compliance by the Department of WV Board of Trustees.

Dues notification - National Executive Director Tom Hazlett

Renewal Dates for Current Members

Please note, 31 August is not recognized by the Database, it defaults to 1 September as the renewal date. All memberships will thus expire as of Midnight 31 August of the year

For those members whose dues are due between July of 2016 through December of 2016, they will pay National Dues of \$20.00 and dues will be due on 31 August 2017 (Cards will be dated 1 September). Members with expiration dates between Jan through June will pay National Dues of \$10 and their Dues will be due on 31 August 2017. Once a member is paid up through 31 August 2017, you can submit their annual dues any time prior to 31 August 2018. The same will then be applicable for all years; you can have the member pay anytime you wish and the dues are extended one additional year to the 31 August. Only the current fiscal year will be affected by the \$20 or \$10 National Dues depending on the date of their renewal; all other years will be the amount of the annual dues and they are due on the 31 August. Remember, all cards will show 1 September as the date (the database cannot recognize 31 August as the renewal date, it defaults to 1 September).

My suggestion; going forward is to break your membership down to certain months and submit transmittals monthly; once the members' transmittal is received, they will be assigned the new expiration date of August 31st of 2018 (again card will be dated 1 September).

For New Joins, the dates are as follows:

1 Sept – End of February: Cost will be the full annual National Dues plus the National new join fee. (Current cost is \$20.00 + \$5.00 = \$25.00) (The renewal dues will be due by 31 August and the card dated 1 September).

1 March – End of July: Cost is half of the annual National Dues plus the National new join fee. (Current cost is \$10.00 + \$5.00 = \$15.00)

The renewal dues will be due by 31 August and the card dated 1 September. New Joins during the month of August will pay the full annual National Dues plus the National new join fee (Current cost \$20.00 + \$5.00 = \$25.00) and the card expiration will be 31 August of the following year with a date of 1 September on the card – they will get 13 months of membership for the cost of 12 months.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Department (J.D. Foster) at e-mail address jfoster@MCLLeague.org

Semper Fi
Tom
National Executive Director

National Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin information

To: Missing Marine
From: Dennis Tobin, National Jr. Vice Commandant
Subject: Welcome back Marine

MARINE;

As the National Jr. Vice Commandant, my job is membership. Within that job my top priority is inactive/unpaid members. Why are you unpaid and inactive? A question that needs to be answered. As an all Marine Veteran organization we need you to help carry on the Marine Corps League Mission and the Traditions of the United

States Marine Corps. From the Detachment and Department level up to National our concern is why have you fallen from our ranks.

Somewhere we failed to insure your continued Fidelity to the Marine Corps League. We will, with your help correct whatever the problems are. I know there have been many problems at the National level for years. I can assure you that the source of the problem is gone. It is the start of a new era. We have a new administration on board now. We have a new Executive Director and a new Commandant and along with the new Sr. and Jr. Vice and the Division Vices we are going forward toward a much better Marine Corps League, which includes bringing back our inactive/unpaid members

As much as we need new members, we need you Marines back. Every Department and Detachment has been tasked with reaching out to you and finding out why you left and what we need to do to get you back. Tell us what we need to correct and do differently that would bring you back among your brother and sister Marines. As a Marine Veteran this is where you belong, we understand one another, we know and understand Semper Fidelis. We need your help to carry on the Marine Corps tradition.

Along with this letter is a short questionnaire for you to let us know why you left, no matter what the reason let us know so we can fix it. Also include any recommendations and ideas you may have to improve and help us keep members like you involved. We need your input. To come back, all you have to do is contact your old Detachment and they will explain what needs to be done, it's an easy process. And please Marine, fill out that questionnaire and send me a copy either by email or to the address listed below. On behalf of the National staff, myself and every Marine Corps League member we hope to hear from soon so we can welcome you back. Semper Fidelis!

Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice Commandant

Contact Info;
27 Cypress Loop
SINY, 10309
Ph# 917-435-2898
email; mrd727@gmail.com
Marine;

Please list whatever the reasons are that caused you to leave the Marine Corps League. Also list any ideas or recommendations you may have to improve the League.

Semper Fidelis

To: All Division Vices
From: Dennis Tobin, National Jr. Vice Commandant
Subject: Information to be sent to all Department Commandant
Marines,

This year is our year to do a number of things;

1st—We need to cut our delinquent numbers at least in half to three quarters.

2nd—With a full scale push from every member we can double our current membership. If every current member concentrates on bringing in one new member we can reach that goal.

3rd—Honorary Active Duty, we have a great opportunity with this program to bring in active duty Marines, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains and get them interested in the Marine Corps League.

A three step mission, bring back those members we've lost, hunt down and recruit new members, and bring in active duty Marines as well as those transitioning out. It won't be easy, but it's not that hard if we all put our mind set on that mission, work hard and work together.

Retention

There's no easy way, it'll take hard work and effort on the part of every Detachment and Department Crevice and myself at the National level. I will be working on the MAL delinquents. Included in this brief will be a letter from me to all delinquent members, copy it and send it with your requests to come back. There is a questionnaire included to try and find out what caused our Marines to go delinquent in the first place. This falls squarely on the shoulders of every Crevice and/or membership chairman/chairwoman.

Take your delinquent list, if it's a large one, form a committee and divide it up. I've talked before about 3 contacts, phone, mail, email.

Do all 3 and if you get no response to any, or if you get any answer back. fill out a transmittal with all the members information signifying "unable to contact, moved, not interested, or deceased, send it to me I will record it and forward it to membership for removal from the rolls. Once this is done, you can now stay on top of all your members, and the new August renewal date for everyone will make it easier for everyone to keep track of their members.

Recruiting;

Again, not an easy task, but can be done. Hard work, boots on the ground hunt them down and bring them in. However as I've said before we need a complete mindset change. We have to think younger, we need to find out what today's Marines are interested in, what hobbies do they enjoy. How can we assist with any problems they may have such as employment, housing, education. Maybe they need help with transportation or child care.

Whatever they need or are interested in we must be able to adapt our Detachments to accommodate them. Our mission is to recruit today's Marines before they get lost in civilian life. As Maj General Regner says, we need today's Marines to transition into the Marine Corps League and we can assist them going into civilian life. Ask these Marines for ideas and you'll be surprised at what they come up with. I've attached some ideas being promoted by the Department of North Carolina.

So, we all know what needs to be done and we should know by now how to do it. You should all know how I feel about Detachment and Department officers that do not want to do their jobs, step down and let someone else do the job. The Marine Corps League is moving forward and there's no place for slackers. Take the office because you want to do better than your predecessors.

Accountability and Tracking;

Detachment;

Every Detachment needs to send a quarterly report to your Department Jr. Vice or Membership chairman/woman which will include any new members recruited, status of your delinquents, what you are doing to bring back delinquents and to retain your existing members. I need to know how many delinquents you have at the start of the quarter and at the end of the quarter. Any changes your Detachment has made to help bring in Marines.

Department

Each Department will compile the reports and forward them to your Division Vice. Division. The Division Vice will in turn compile his/her report and forward them to me, the National Jr Vice.

National Jr Vice

I will compile all the numbers and information and keep an active report for the year. at the end of each quarter I will award a citation to the top Detachment, Department and Division for the highest number recruited, the largest decline in delinquents. Also at the Detachment level the award will be determined by Detachment size 15-50, 51-100, 101-200, and 200+. I will not accept answers such as I'm too busy, it's too much work, just get it done. If I'm going to take the time to sort through all the reports and numbers and give out a regular award, you can take the time to do your job, Recruit and Retain.

If you have a report you want to send now, feel free to do so. I will expect a report at the end of November.

Also attached will be Division membership stats and delinquent stats as well as Department stats as of August 19th and Detachments below the required members. As of 19 August there are 58 Detachments below 15 members, try to move members around and try to build up one or two Detachments and close the ones that can't be saved.

We have a lot of work to do Marines at all levels, lets get it done.

Semper Fidelis

Dennis Tobin

National Jr. Vice Commandant

VA Proposes Rule to Consider Certain Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune

September 9, 2016

VA to provide presumptive service connection for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published proposed regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases affecting military members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumptive illnesses apply to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served for no less than 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with the following conditions:

- ← adult leukemia
- ← aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- ← bladder cancer
- ← kidney cancer
- ← liver cancer
- ← multiple myeloma
- ← non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- ← Parkinson's disease

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they deserve.” Environmental health experts on VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science. Military members with records of service showing no less than 30 days of service, either concurrent or cumulative, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period can already be granted Veteran status for medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene, a dry cleaning agent (PCE), as well as benzene, and vinyl chloride were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. These systems served the housing, administrative, and recreational facilities, as well as the base hospital. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

VA acknowledges that current science establishes a link between exposure to certain chemicals found in the water supply at Camp Lejeune and later development of one of the proposed presumptive conditions. However, VA experts agree that there is no scientific underpinning to support a specific minimum exposure level for any of the conditions. Therefore, VA welcomes comments on the 30-day minimum exposure requirement and will consider other practical alternatives when drafting the final rule. VA also notes that the proposed 30-day requirement serves to establish eligibility for service connection on a presumptive basis; nothing in this proposed regulation prohibits consideration of service connection on a non-presumptive basis. The 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule is open until Oct. 10, 2016.

Veterans Who Need Routine Audiology and Optometry Appointments Will Soon Be Able to Directly Schedule

Veterans receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Medical Centers will now be able to schedule routine ear and eye appointments at local VA Audiology and Optometry clinics without a primary care referral – a move that eliminates multiple steps and gets Veterans into appointments quicker.

Before now, Veterans seeking appointments with audiologists or optometrists had to first make an appointment with a primary care physician for a referral for a routine clinic consult visit. A clinic representative would contact the patient to set up the consult appointment, which could result in a several weeks'-long lag between the appointment and when the Veteran was actually seen. The new process, the Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative, which began as a successful pilot at three sites in 2015, is being expanded to all VA Medical Centers.

“The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative allows Veterans who need eye and ear care to be seen sooner,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “It also has the benefit of freeing up primary care physicians so access to primary care improves for other Veterans as well. This kind of process improvement is exactly the type of innovation we expected when we launched MyVA in 2014. In the end, we changed a VA process by considering the needs of our Veterans, a change that allows for more timely care and an improved Veteran experience.”

The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is one of a number of efforts underway at VA to improve Veterans' access to care and wait times. Among those recent accomplishments:

- ← VA and Choice contractors created more than 3.1 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector from May 1, 2015 through Apr. 30, 2016. This represents an 8-percent increase in authorizations when compared to the same period in 2014/2015.
- ← In FY 2015, 12 percent of all Veterans enrolled for VA care received telehealth-based care. This includes more than 2 million telehealth visits touching 677,000 Veterans; 45 percent of these Veterans live in rural areas.
- ← In FY 2015, more than 6,300 Veterans accessed VA care through live interactive video telehealth from home.
- ← VA has activated over 3.9 million square feet of space in the past two years.
- ← We've increased authorizations for care in the community 46% in the past two years.
- ← Clinic production is up 10 percent as measured by the same productivity standard used by many private-sector healthcare systems. This increase translates into roughly 20 million additional hours of care for Veterans.
- ← As we improve access to care, more and more Veterans are choosing VA care — for the quality, for the convenience, or for the cost-savings so even though we're completing millions more appointments, we continue to have more work to do.
- ← VA has increased salaries for physicians and dentists to close the pay gap with the private sector and to make VA an employer of choice. With more competitive salaries, VA will be better positioned to retain and

hire more health care providers to care for Veterans.

“We want our Veterans and those who care for them to know that we are doing everything that we can to improve their experience with VA and to provide the care our Veterans deserve in a thoughtful and timely way,” said VA Under Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “We have made progress, but know there is more work to be done. This Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is one of many initiatives underway to improve Veterans access to care.”

The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is expected to be fully operational within all VA Medical Centers by the end of 2016.

The Charleston Gazette newspaper Article by Linda Arnold - August 28, 2016

Live Life Fully: Semper Fi — I got to witness up close what it means

I didn't know Marine Pvt. Paul Jamison.

I didn't know before Aug. 18 that this Vietnam veteran served his country from the age of 19 when he joined the United States Marine Corps.

Jamison, who formerly lived in Dunbar, was living at the Golden Living Center-Riverside in St. Albans when he died in July. “After an extensive search, there are no known survivors,” says a line from his obituary.

His story was circulated on social media, with a call to action to stand up for this veteran. The story touched me deeply when I read it the afternoon before the burial service for Jamison, who was born in Alabama on Sept. 17, 1952, and joined the service in Mississippi in 1971.

I immediately thought of the episode from “The West Wing” television show in which President Bartlett's assistant, Toby Ziegler, moved heaven and earth to order an honor guard for a homeless veteran who died on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The episode was titled “In Excelsis Deo.”

At first Bartlett was worried about the precedent this may set and asked, “Toby, if we start pulling strings like this, don't you think every homeless veteran will come out of the woodwork?” “I can only hope so, sir,” was the reply.

I still recall the haunting music of the boys' choir singing “The Little Drummer Boy.” I even went back and watched excerpts of the episode on YouTube:

“I played my drum for him ... pa rum pum pum pum.

I played my best for him, pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.”

I kept thinking about Jamison's upcoming funeral service at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Dunbar.

And then all those other thoughts of things I “should” do flooded my mind. After all, I had deadlines to meet — and lots of things on my platter. I didn't know him, and there was nothing compelling me to attend the service. Except my heart and soul wouldn't let go of the idea.

And I've learned to pay attention to those signals. When I woke up Aug. 19, I was determined to go to the service. I rearranged my schedule and made time to attend. I was possessed by a burning desire to do so.

When I drove into the cemetery, there were no signs of the burial site. At first I was afraid no one had shown up to honor this man. Continuing on up the winding road, however, my fears were quelled. Signs began to emerge.

Obviously, others had felt the same tug as me.

Jamison's brothers and sisters in the military were out in full force — some in uniform, some in leather jackets, some on motorcycles. Cars lined the road leading to the burial site on both sides. Babies turned out in strollers, along with men and women of all ages. It was a very moving service, chock full of protocol — honor guard, rifle salutes, bugles playing taps and hands over hearts. There was so much reverence and respect you could feel it in the air. I venture to say many of us were in the same boat — not knowing Jamison personally, but there to pay our respects.

The anonymity of the whole experience lent an extra element of authenticity. There were no labels or identifiers like friends or family, no designated pews. The crowd was a blend of suits, jeans, shorts and sandals. We were all just there, weaving a rich tapestry, together in spirit.

As the flag was handed down “on behalf of a grateful nation,” I found myself silently acknowledging all those Vietnam vets who returned home without enthusiastic homecomings — not to mention the 50,000 or so who gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice.

I went up to the casket afterward, touched it and thanked Jamison — and all the other veterans — for their service to our country.

I always knew there was a special bond that existed among those who utter “Semper Fi” to one another. Technically, the Latin phrase, “Semper Fidelis,” can be interpreted to mean “always faithful” or “always loyal.” In the United States it is best known as the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Now I know why. It’s a way of life.

It underscores their dedication to one another, their service and their country. It’s not “sometimes faithful” or “when it’s convenient faithful,” it’s “always faithful,” no matter what — which is rock solid refreshing in a world that is filled with too many options and back-door escapes.

Veteran Cam Beck describes the motto as non-negotiable.

“The longer I’m out of the service,” Beck said, “the more I recognize my draw to and longing for the culture of ‘Semper Fidelis.’ The phrase simply symbolizes the ability of common people to become part of a brotherhood that demands more of its members than any other comparable group in the world.”

Nothing I did that Friday — or on many other days — touched my heart like Jamison’s service. Although it lasted less than a half hour, it will be indelibly etched on my soul.

No, I wasn’t honored to know Jamison.

But I played my best for him.

Linda Arnold

Certificate of Insurance

National MCL HQ will mail a copy of the Commercial General Liability Insurance certificate to the Department and all Detachments. The period of coverage is Sept 1, 2016 to Sept 1, 2017. The Certificate of Insurance should be kept in your permanent files. It is important that the exclusions and restrictions listed in the summary be noted. This insurance is designated to protect you against claims alleging negligence that causes injuries to third parties (persons other than members). It does not cover lawsuits brought against a member by another. The policy also excludes any injury to participants in athletic events or other sports nature activities. The insurance provided normally takes care of events, parades and other activities in which the Department or Detachment members participate but does not provide coverage for the Department or Detachment or its members as sponsors of an event. As a new guideline, if you solely host the following special events and have 150 or more attendees, there is an additional charge to the department/detachments: Examples are Art/Craft Show, Fairs/Antique Show, Birthday Ball/Dinner Dances, Picnics, Car Washes, Golf Tournament, Casino Night and Auction/Wine Tasting, etc. This is why it’s important that Departments and Detachments ensure they have only Marine Corps League members represent the League. This is not and was never intended to be an accident policy for the members.

Beirut Bombing Memorial - October 23, 1983

October 23 is the 33rd anniversary of the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, where 241 Americans lost their lives including 220 Marines, 17 Navy medical personnel and 4 Army soldiers. This was the largest single-day loss of U.S. Marines since taking Iwo Jima in February 1945. Five servicemen from West Virginia lost their lives in that explosion. They are LCPL David Cosner, Elkins; CPL Medot Camara, Hinton; LCPL Russell Cyzicle, Star City; CPL Timothy Runnigan, Princeton and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Martin Kees, Martinsburg. Each year Leland D. “Crow” Detachment 956 members place a memorial wreath honoring these servicemen at a monument at the Randolph County Courthouse in Elkins. The service will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 23.

Department Regular Meeting - January 14, 2017 in Parkersburg

2017 Department of WV Regular Meeting will be January 14, 2017 hosted by Wood County Detachment 1087 in Parkersburg WV at the American Legion Post 15, 2505 Ohio Ave. Staff Officers Meeting is 9:30 AM with general business meeting at 10 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept Meeting.

The uniform code has been modified for the Department Regular Meetings as members can wear polo shirts and pants, with fore and aft cover. The uniform code must be followed for the Department Convention.

Here are driving directions:

From Charleston: Turn left and then immediately get into the right hand lane. After passing through the underpass merge into the far right lane WV 618/7th Street exit. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the stop sign onto 7th Street. Go approximately 2.5 miles and stay to the right. At Camden-Clark Hospital the road will make a 90* right turn and become Murdock Ave. Go approximately 1.5 miles and get in the left lane. Turn left onto Emerson Ave....the sign will say to OH 7, Belpre Ohio. Get in the far right lane, go straight through the intersection like you are going to cross the Memorial Bridge into Ohio. You will see the American Legion on your right and the VA Clinic on your left. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. just before you reach the Memorial Bridge toll booth. Go approximately 50 yards and turn right onto 24th St. This will take you right into the American Legion parking lot.

From Wheeling: Turn right at the foot of the exit and stay in the far right lane WV 618/7th Street exit. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the stop sign onto 7th Street. Go approximately 2.5 miles and stay to the right. At Camden-Clark Hospital the road will make a 90* right turn and become Murdock Ave. Go approximately 1.5 miles and get in the left lane. Turn left onto Emerson Ave....the sign will say to OH 7, Belpre Ohio. Get in the far right lane, go straight through the intersection like you are going to cross the Memorial Bridge into Ohio. You will see the American Legion on your right and the VA Clinic on your left. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. just before you reach the Memorial Bridge toll booth. Go approximately 50 yards and turn right onto 24th St. This will take you right into the American Legion parking lot.

From Clarksburg: Stay on Route 50 West until you reach I-77. After passing through the underpass merge into the far right lane WV 618/7th Street exit. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the stop sign onto 7th Street. Go approximately 2.5 miles and stay to the right. At Camden-Clark Hospital the road will make a 90* right turn and become Murdock Ave. Go approximately 1.5 miles and get in the left lane. Turn left onto Emerson Ave....the sign will say to OH 7, Belpre Ohio. Get in the far right lane, go straight through the intersection like you are going to cross the Memorial Bridge into Ohio. You will see the American Legion on your right and the VA Clinic on your left. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. just before you reach the Memorial Bridge toll booth. Go approximately 50 yards and turn right onto 24th St. This will take you right into the American Legion parking lot.

Dating a Veteran is not complicated and well worth the time

Dating a service member or veteran can be challenging for a civilian unfamiliar with the world of military life. And it can even throw veterans dating other veterans into unfamiliar ground. Whatever your background, here are nine things you're going to have to get used to if you decide to date a service member or veteran.

1. Understanding dark humor

Learning a new sense of humor is something that has to happen when you date a veteran. They cope with things with a dark sense of humor, and this can be a little off-putting.

Thing is, you just have to learn to laugh when he takes his leg off at dinner, sets it on a chair and asks the waiter for another menu.

2. The things they carry

When you're dating a civilian, they might sometimes leave a shirt or socks behind after a late-night visit. But if you're dating a veteran, you may have to deal with a forgotten piece of their prosthetic, a utility knife, or something else you might not expect.

3. Bobby pins are everywhere

Just like dating a civilian woman, military women will leave bobby pins behind. To keep the crisp, clean bun many women in uniform rely on, it can take 15 or more bobby pins to make it work. Occasionally, they get left behind on night stands and kitchen sinks as an accidental territory marker.

4. Opening up takes a little longer

Any relationship is built on trust and understanding – a relationship with a vet is no different. Special importance has to be put on trust, though. When someone's ready to open up, you have to be ready to listen and try to understand things you may have never experienced and couldn't begin to comprehend. Many veterans are used to losing the people who are closest to them, whether from failed relationships, in combat, or to suicide.

They may not want to get attached for fear of losing you, but you have to work to build their trust.

5. Inter-service rivalry is all in good fun

If you're a veteran dating a veteran of another branch, you have to get used to the good-natured teasing of your service coming into all aspects of your life. Whether you forget something at home on a trip and hear "man, that's why you can't trust an Airman!" or if you're late to a date and get a "sailors, always on their own time," you have to learn to dish it back with a smile.

6. You learn to love listening to stories

Any veteran, young or old, loves to tell stories from their service. Whether they fought the Nazis in 10 feet of snow with an ax handle and a pocket knife, or they battled al-Qaeda as a member of Delta Team Six, the stories are always an interesting look into the way the military works. Whether they're 100 percent true or a little embellished, you'll learn to revel in the stories of your veteran significant other — especially over a few drinks.

7. You learn to give your all and try new things

Veterans can be intense people. They're used to giving a mission their all and take that passion into the things they love most. Learning new things may include backpacking or kayaking or it could be a sport like football or basketball. No matter what, you have to learn to give 100 percent to anything you try.

8. Not every vet has post-traumatic stress, but some do

Life isn't always sunshine and roses. While visible wounds may make people stare, the invisible wounds can be harder to deal with in a relationship. Traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress are big hurdles modern veterans face, and they can affect their closest relationships dramatically. Patience is key in a time where your significant other is facing something they may not want to – or be able to – talk about.

9. Commitment is more than a ten-letter word

Each branch of the military focuses on commitment, duty, honor, sacrifice, and service and others before self. This bleeds into their life outside of the military – dating and marrying a veteran can be one of the most rewarding things someone can do. It isn't for everyone, but if you meet and fall in love with a veteran, you can be assured their service will be an asset in your life together.

USMC Limited Duty Status - Rules Modified

Combat-wounded Marines who want to stay in uniform now have fewer hoops to jump through. Manpower officials have modified decade-old rules that offer permanent limited duty status to qualified Marines. Under the new Expanded Permanent Limited Duty Status policy:

- Marines approved for retention can re-enlist for 48 months at a time, and continue to do so without having to face more retention boards.
- Marines who desire a spot must submit medical and physical evaluation board results, and a letter to the commandant that states a reason for retention, according to a Corps-wide message signed by Commandant Gen. Robert Neller.
- The Marine must be willing to accept a lateral move (and is asked to provide three choices), and geographic assignment if determined necessary.
- Assignments will be restricted to locations that have proper medical facilities required for a combat-wounded Marine's injuries, according to the message.
- Marines accepted into the program do not have to repeat these steps for subsequent re-enlistments unless there is a change to their medical status.

It is not clear how many PLD Marines are eligible, as manpower officials did not immediately respond when asked how many Marines apply for and are granted this status annually. Before being accepted into the program, eligible Marines are warned that by showing a fitness for continued duty, they could adversely affect some benefits and entitlements they would otherwise receive through the Veterans Affairs Department. Marines who stay in uniform for one year or longer will be re-evaluated upon final separation, "and are subject to a potentially lesser subsequent disability rating as determined through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System," according to the MARADMIN.

"It is imperative that Marines seeking retention under this policy are fully counseled on the implications of their

decision that may be better served by being either medically retired or separated and who might better avail themselves of VA services/entitlements,” the message states. At the same time, the Corps looks to honor those who desire to stay on active duty despite their medical restrictions. A combat-wounded Marine found “unfit” for continued service by a physical evaluation board can apply for permanent limited duty to carry him to his established end of active service as long as his injuries were the result of hostile action, meet the criteria for awarding of the Purple Heart, and were not the result of his own misconduct. This Marine need not pass the physical or combat fitness test, and is not required to be worldwide deployable, according to the message. Height and weight standards may also be waived on a case-by-case basis. However, the Marine must be capable of performing in a military occupational specialty and effectively contribute to the Marine Corps’ mission

TRICARE Assisted Living Options - Benefits Available

As you or your loved ones age, you may find that getting to doctors’ offices is more difficult or more frequent. TRICARE offers several options to help you get the care you need. First, decide which services you need, like whether you need a skilled nursing facility or nursing home. Then you can find out if TRICARE covers those services.

SNF Care: Skilled nursing care is covered by TRICARE in the U.S. and U.S. Territories within skilled nursing facilities (SNF) if you have a hospital stay of three or more days. Remember, you are an outpatient until the doctor formally admits you into the hospital. You become inpatient on the day you’re formally admitted to a hospital with a doctor’s order. The day of discharge also doesn’t count as an inpatient day. Services covered in a skilled nursing facility include: semi-private rooms (a room you share with other patients), meals, skilled nursing care, physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology services, medical social services, medications, medical supplies and equipment used in the facility, ambulance transportation (when other transportation is dangerous to your health) to the nearest care not available at the facility, and dietary counseling.

Nursing home Care: Skilled nursing facility care is different from nursing home care, which is not covered by TRICARE. Nursing homes provide custodial care. *i.e. Non-skilled, personal care for basic day-to-day tasks. This includes help with eating, dressing, getting in or out of a bed or chair, moving around, and using the bathroom., which is care that helps you with activities such as: bathing, dressing, walking, eating and sleeping.* Learn more about this at <http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/SkilledNursingFacilityCare> .

DME: In either situation, you may need durable medical equipment (DME). This is equipment that can hold up to repeated use and serves a medical purpose, like oxygen equipment or insulin pumps. TRICARE covers DME when prescribed by a physician to increase your quality of life. If you can stay home, but still need assistance, you may decide home health care is best for you

<http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/HomeHealthCare>. Home health care is provided by nurses, nurses’ aides, or therapists who come into your home to help you with medication or other services. Physical, speech and occupational therapists can visit to help you function better. Medical social service workers can visit to make sure you receive proper care. Coverage is the same as Medicare for these services.

Hospice Care: is care for those who are terminally ill. It emphasizes supportive services such as pain control and home care. TRICARE does not cover room and board unless the patient is receiving inpatient or respite care. When you choose hospice care, you’ve decided that you no longer want care to cure your terminal illness and/or your doctor has determined that efforts to cure your illness aren’t working. Hospice care is provided in three benefit periods, and each benefit period requires prior authorization. The first two periods are each 90 days. The final period comprises an unlimited number of 60-day periods, each of which requires recertification of the terminal illness. If a beneficiary revokes a hospice election, any remaining days in that period are forfeited. To learn more about TRICARE coverage go to

<http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/HospiceCare>.

ALF/Long Term Care: TRICARE and Medicare do not cover assisted living facilities or long term care. The Department of Veterans Affairs pays for long-term care services for service-related disabilities and certain other eligible veterans. They also offer nursing home care and at home care for aging veterans who need long term care. Remember, long term care is care that you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks by yourself due to a chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. Plan ahead and research long-term care insurance, like the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (<https://www.ltcfeds.com/>) before you need it.

VA Awards \$6.8 Billion for Medical Disability Examinations

19 Sep 2016. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the awarding of 12 contracts between 5 firms totaling \$6.8 billion to improve the Medical Disability Examination process (Compensation and Pension or Comp and Pen Examinations) for Veterans. The awards are intended to reduce Veterans' wait times for examinations for service-connected benefits, thereby providing faster claims decisions in a more efficient and streamlined way.

"This is good news for Veterans who are waiting for VA to determine whether a condition can be considered service-connected," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "For these Veterans, we want the process to be smoother – from beginning to end. When we announced the MyVA initiative in 2014 to improve Veterans' experience with VA, that meant looking at *every* process and *every* product. These awards represent a way for us to improve a significant process for Veterans."

Contracts were awarded to the following firms:

- ← VetFed Resources, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia;
- ← Logistics Health, Inc., La Crosse, Wisconsin;
- ← Medical Support Los Angeles, A Medical Corporation, Pasadena, CA;
- ← QTC Medical Services, Inc., Diamond Bar, California; and
- ← Veterans Evaluation Services, Inc., Houston, Texas.

The contracts are being awarded for a period of 12 months with (4) 12-month options, with an aggregate ceiling of \$6.8 billion. The contracts will be managed by VA's Strategic Acquisition Center based in Frederick, MD.

You Are Not Alone: Suicide Prevention Tools for Warriors

If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone. Suicide is a medical emergency and care should be sought immediately by calling 911. Free, confidential resources are instantly available through the Military Crisis Line to aid you if you are in crisis. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, or chat online now for 24/7 access to trained counselors who understand what service members and military families are coping with. Some service members may face emotional or psychological concerns such as feelings of anger, isolation, anxiety or guilt following a deployment or as a result of coping with the stress of military life. These reactions, among others, can be common responses to extraordinary events. For some service members, these feelings may be signs of more serious concerns, including depression or posttraumatic stress disorder. Warriors coping with these concerns may feel like there is no escape from their symptoms, which may lead to thoughts of suicide. However, warriors should be assured that tools that encourage resilience and recovery are available and they work.

How Do I Know if I Am Showing Warning Signs?

Contact a friend, family member, commanding officer, health professional or the Military Crisis Line immediately if you are:

- ← Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- ← Seeking access to pills, weapons or other means of harming yourself
- ← Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide

It is also important to seek out professional help if you are experiencing any of these signs of concern:

- ← Being unable to sleep or oversleeping
- ← Withdrawing from friends, family or society
- ← Increasing alcohol or drug use
- ← Acting recklessly or engaging in risky behavior
- ← Experiencing excessive rage, anger or desire for revenge
- ← Having feelings of anxiety, agitation or hopelessness
- ← Reliving past experiences
- ← Experiencing dramatic changes in mood
- ← Feeling hopeless

What Tools Can Help Me Cope While I Seek Treatment?

The most important step in combating thoughts of suicide is reaching out for professional support through

resources like the [Military Crisis Line](#). Professional support is critical to recovering to peak performance. In addition, the following tips can help you on your journey of recovery and resilience:

- ← Consider writing in a journal to express pain, anger, fear or other emotions
- ← Be social. Get together with peers, commanding officers, family, friends or other members of the community regularly
- ← Stay physically fit by eating a healthy diet and getting sufficient sleep
- ← Use relaxation techniques to aid in stress management

Who Can I Reach Out to for More Information and Support?

In addition to trained professionals at the Military Crisis Line, you can access suicide prevention resources and links through the Defense Suicide Prevention Office [suicide outreach page](#) and the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)'s [suicide prevention page](#). You can also access suicide prevention resources within the services:



PDD Ben Fetty, WV Pack Smart Dog and Mountain Men Pound 215 Dog Robber, was presented the 2016 MODD Kennel Pound Dog Robber of the Year Award during the MCL National Convention in Tulsa, Okla. The award was presented to PDD Fetty by WV Pack Leader Mike McLain during the Department Regular Meeting in Logan.

Navy to Hold All-Hands Training, Webinars on New Transgender Policy

Sep 16, 2016 | by Hope Hodge Seck

As the Pentagon [makes changes](#) to allow transgender service members to serve openly, the [Navy](#) is holding training to educate all troops on the new policies.

In an all-Navy message published Tuesday, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke said a three-pronged training approach will equip senior leaders and rank-and-file personnel for the changes.

"This training will emphasize policies and expectations of personal behavior," the message states.

Beginning Nov. 1, mobile training teams composed of Navy fleet representatives and subject matter experts will be dispatched to deliver face-to-face briefs to senior leaders, including commanding officers, executive officers, command master chiefs, and chiefs of boat.

These sessions will also be open to equal opportunity advisers, ombudsmen and other command-designated representatives who will have a role in training the tenant commands on policies governing transgender troops. A spokeswoman for Naval Personnel Command, Lt. Jessica Anderson, told Military.com in an email that a commander's tool kit is being developed to guide training, and that additional information about what these training sessions will include will be available in a future message to the fleet.

"Service members are expected to maintain standards of conduct and treat each other with dignity and respect," she said. "Training for sailors will be conducted by command triads via mobile training teams or DVD with a facilitation guide if the unit is in a remote area and unable to receive face-to-face training. There will also be webinars for COs to ask questions prior to delivering training to their commands."

According to the message, DVDs and discussion guides will be mailed to each unit, along with copies of the commander's tool kit and a Defense Department guide being created to explain policy. The webinars, made available to leadership teams, will be provided after mobile training team visits as an opportunity for subject matter experts to answer any remaining questions before fleet training begins.

All sailors will have completed a training session on the new policies by July 1, 2017, Anderson said. That's when the services plan to begin accepting transgender recruits for the first time.

Along with permitting transgender troops to serve openly, the military is creating procedures for troops to change their "gender marker" in the administrative Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, and laying out rules to govern how troops might undergo medical gender transitions while in uniform.

Transgender troops will be required to use the bathroom and berthing facilities associated with their preferred gender, Navy officials have said.

And service leaders will be on alert for those who seek to single out or mistreat their transgender counterparts.

"We do not tolerate harassment of any kind," Anderson said. "Treating all service members with dignity and respect is something we take extremely seriously, and when there are any indications that those values are not being followed, we will conduct appropriate investigations and take action as necessary."

US military released bacteria to test biological warfare

The US Military has conducted numerous secret experiments on Americans. Click on the below link to read about these experiments

<http://www.businessinsider.com/military-government-secret-experiments-biological-chemical-weapons-2016-9?ref=yfp>

Pending Calendar

2017 Department Regular Meeting will be January 14, 2017 hosted by Wood County Detachment 1087 at American Legion Post 15, 2505 Ohio Ave. in Parkersburg, WV. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

2017 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be March 1 - 5, 2017 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conf Center, 2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. group code: MCLMDWINTER17 Phone: (540) 786-8321 Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$89.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 11.3%)

2017 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 5-7, 2017 in Charleston, WV. at the Town Center Marriott. Herbert J. Thomas Detachment 957 will be the host detachment. Further details are pending.

2017 Mideast Division Conference will be June 23-25, 2017 hosted by Department of North Carolina at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, North Carolina, 27703. Tel +1-919-941-6000 after May 17, 2016. for reservations. Room rate: \$99.00 plus room tax. Free breakfast and parking

2017 MCL National Convention will be August 13 - 18, 2017 at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Book By Phone: 1-866-837-4214 **commencing Monday, August 15, 2017 at 0801 CST.** Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.



Marine Corps League
Garden State Detachment 1278
Department of New Jersey
~New Jersey's Member at Large Detachment~



Commandant:

Last year Garden State Detachment, Department of New Jersey began selling tee-shirts to its members with their boot camp platoon number and graduation year. These were a tremendous success and we extended it to the Department of New Jersey. To date we have sold over 450 shirts. Our supplier was only set up to do shirts that said Parris Island, but we keep getting requests to do San Diego so we thought we would try and expand. If you could possibly put the order form on your department web-site or however you get the word out I know there are many Marines that would like to have this shirt. These shirts are printed at the local Abilities shop, which is a local non-profit organization who employ challenged people.

The order form is also available on the Department of New Jersey web site which is njmcl.org

Please feel free to make as many copies as you wish.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at rdbnco@yahoo.com.

Semper Fi

Rich Basile
Past Department Commandant

