



Mideast Division Bulletin 1-13

This Mideast Division Bulletin is to provide communication on administrative policy and pending events within the division. These are areas that I want the Departments and Detachments to focus on to ensure the Mideast Division complies with directives from MCL National HQ. Disseminate this information to all detachments. Departments are requested to submit any information on scheduled events within their area to the Division Adjutant, Roger Ware at rrware@yahoo.com and Division Web Sgt, Bruce Rakfeldt at MCLBruceRakfeldt@triad.rr.com. The Division web site is: www.mclmideastdiv.org. The Chain of Command is: Individual - Detachment - Department - Division - National.

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Sierra Alpha Detachment 700

Commandant: Home:

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Mideast Division Financial Report

Current balance: \$1,398.27

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Professional Development and Leadership Training

Professional development and bylaws training is an important area that needs constant attention. Many of the potential conflicts within a unit can be resolved by having ongoing training and effective communications. Detachment Commandants are required to implement training for their members. The National web site has the Professional Development Program for download and use. The training modules are useful for every department and detachment. This is an area that must be addressed by all Department Commandants and progress should be monitored to determine the overall effectiveness of the training.

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Membership Recruitment and Retention

Every Department Commandant, Department Paymaster and Detachment Paymaster within the Mideast Division will receive the 12/31/2012 Quarterly roster from MCL National of the total membership within their respective detachment. When the roster arrives this membership information must be shared from the Department Commandant to the Department Jr Vice Commandant and addressed to each Detachment Commandant. The focus must be to address and contact all unpaid members within each detachment in the division. Recruiting new members and retaining current members is one of the most important missions in the detachment. Paymasters should bring a copy of this roster to each membership meeting and read those names of all unpaid members. Too many detachments are not sharing this information and far too often the members of your detachment may not know who has or has not paid their annual dues. By sharing this information with your Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant and members of your detachment it will help reduce your list of unpaid members. Many of your members will contact some of these unpaid and do what they can to get them to pay their dues.

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2013 Mid Winter National Staff Conference

2013 Midwinter National Staff Conference will be Feb 7-9, 2013, at Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA. The Department Commandant's Council is Thursday, February 7th at 1700. All Department Commandants or their representatives are required to present their respective reports during this council. In the event a Department does not have anyone in attendance, a copy of their Department Report should be mailed to Mideast Division ANVC Mike McLain so he can present it. Departments should present a copy to Mideast Division NVC Bud Raines and National Sr Vice Commandant John Kovalcik. Bring 50 copies for distribution. Department Commandants, your report should focus on all those areas that National Sr Vice Commandant Kovalcik listed in a notice which was recently mailed to you. Please be specific and provide the information that he desired in your Department Report. Limit your report to three minutes.

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Division Gun Raffle

The Mideast Division conducted a fund raiser last year to generate funds for the division's administrative purposes, plaques and certificates. A Golden Boy 22 caliber rifle was awarded and this division will be conducting another rifle raffle this year with the rifle being awarded during the Mideast Conference on June 29, 2013 in Hagerstown, MD. The ticket donation is \$5 per entry or 5 for \$20.00 and can be mailed to Division Paymaster Harry Kesecker, P.O. Box 56, Rawlings, MD 21557-0056 Home Phone: 304-788-2757 Email: harrykesecker@comcast.net Vince Tesoro will be conducting the raffle and tickets will be submitted to various departments for their use.

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Agency: Lejeune water contaminated in 1953

The following article is from The Associated Press article that appeared in Marine Corps Times issue of January 18, 2013

Many more Marines and their relatives could be eligible for compensation for illnesses now that a federal agency determined that the water at North Carolina's Camp Lejeune was contaminated four years earlier than previously thought.

In a letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said computer modeling shows that drinking water in the residential Hadnot Point area was unsafe for human consumption as far back as 1953. President Barack Obama signed a law last year granting health care and screening to Marines and their dependents on the base between 1957 and 1987.

"This is yet another piece of the puzzle that's coming together and slowly exposing the extent of the contamination at Camp Lejeune and the Marine Corps' culpability and negligence," said Mike Partain, a Marine's son who was born at the southeast North Carolina base and who says he is one of at least 82 men diagnosed with breast cancer.

"This is four years overdue."

The Marines were slow to react after groundwater sampling first showed contamination on the base in the early 1980s. Some drinking water wells were closed in 1984 and 1985, after further testing confirmed contamination from leaking fuel tanks and an off-base dry cleaner.

Health officials believe as many as 1 million people may have been exposed to tainted

water. It's not clear how many Marines and family members will be affected by the expansion of the time line.

Partain estimates thousands because the Hadnot Point water system supplied the barracks where the majority of the Marines lived, as well as the Naval Hospital, unmarried officer barracks and some family housing areas. "It is by far the largest exposed population on the base," Partain said.

In a letter to Gen. Allison Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits, the head of the toxic substance registry noted that a preliminary water modeling report showed that the period covered under the 2012 legislation didn't go back far enough, and that volatile organic compounds exceeded maximum contaminant levels at Hadnot Point as early as August 1953.

"I hope this information is useful as the Department of Veterans Affairs evaluates claims from veterans who served at USMC Camp Lejeune prior to the release of our full water modeling report in the spring," agency Director Christopher J. Portier wrote in the letter, dated Wednesday.

The letter was first released publicly during a meeting Thursday of the agency's community assistance panel at the disease registry headquarters in Atlanta. Former Marines and family members angrily questioned officials about why these studies have taken so long to complete.

During the meeting Thursday, a VA representative said that the approval rate for claims related to the water contamination has been about 25 percent so far. As of September, the VA had granted 17 breast cancer claims and denied 13 others; not all were males.

Marine Corps Capt. Kendra Motz said she got the disease registry letter Thursday and didn't have immediate comment. A VA spokesman said that agency was looking into the letter.

Documents show that underground storage tanks at Hadnot Point may have leaked more than 1 million gallons of fuel, a much bigger concern than the off-base dry cleaners, said Partain.

"This exposure had nothing to do with ABC cleaners and was the sole responsibility of the USMC," Partain said in an email.

Former Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger singled out the case of a Florida Marine who is dying of a rare case of male breast cancer, and whose claim the VA recently denied.

"We've got veterans out there with life-ending diseases," said Ensminger, who blames the contamination for the leukemia that killed his 9-year-old daughter, Janey, in 1985. "These people are terminal, and they need this information."

That veteran, Tom Gervasi, 76, had his left breast removed in 2003. His service at Camp Lejeune ended six months before the cutoff date.

The VA has denied his cancer claim twice. He learned of the most recent rejection on Wednesday in a call from U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's office.

Gervasi's doctors have given him at most three years to live. He would like his wife, Elaine, to have VA benefits when he is gone.

"Hopefully, this will work in my favor," Gervasi said in a telephone interview Friday from his home in Sarasota. "I don't know. It's sort of like fighting city hall, so to speak. When you're fighting the federal government, you're not always going to win. Very seldom you're going to win."

"It is my hope that VA will act quickly to amend their policy and review relevant

disability claims that have been denied," U.S. Sen. Richard Burr said in a statement. "These men and women have been suffering through no fault of their own and we owe them the care they need without delay."

Ensminger told the group that a fellow Marine had succumbed the day before to kidney cancer, one of the diseases linked to the Lejeune contamination.

"I know you all deal with facts and figures; I deal with the personal aspect of this," he said. "You get to know these people. You cry with them, and every one of them that dies, you die a little bit each time with them. And it's just not fun."

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Defense Department Rescinds Direct Combat Exclusion Rule; Services to Expand Integration of Women into Previously Restricted Occupations and Units

On January 24, 2013, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey announced the rescission the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule for women and that the Department of Defense plans to remove gender-based barriers to service.

"Women have shown great courage and sacrifice on and off the battlefield, contributed in unprecedented ways to the military's mission and proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles," Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta said. "The Department's goal in rescinding the rule is to ensure that the mission is met with the best-qualified and most capable people, regardless of gender."

Today, women make up approximately 15 percent, or nearly 202,400, of the U.S. military's 1.4 million active personnel. Over the course of the past decade, more than 280,000 women have deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today's announcement follows an extensive review by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who unanimously concluded that now is the time to move forward with the full intent to integrate women into occupational fields to the maximum extent possible. It builds on a February 2012 decision to open more than 14,000 additional positions to women by rescinding the co-location restriction and allowing women to be assigned to select positions in ground combat units at the battalion level.

"The Joint Chiefs share common cause on the need to start doing this now and to doing this right. We are committed to a purposeful and principled approach," said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey.

The Department of Defense is determined to successfully integrate women into the remaining restricted occupational fields within our military, while adhering to the following guiding principles developed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Ensuring the success of our nation's war fighting forces by preserving unit readiness, cohesion, and morale.

Ensuring all service men and women are given the opportunity to succeed and are set up for success with viable career paths.

Retaining the trust and confidence of the American people to defend this nation by promoting policies that maintain the best quality and most qualified people.

Validating occupational performance standards, both physical and mental, for all military occupational specialties (MOS), specifically those that remain closed to women.

Eligibility for training and development within designated occupational fields should consist of qualitative and quantifiable standards reflecting the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for each occupation. For occupational specialties open to women, the occupational performance standards must be gender-neutral as required by Public Law 103-160, Section 542 (1993).

Ensuring that a sufficient cadre of mid grade/senior women enlisted and officers are assigned to commands at the point of introduction to ensure success in the long run. This may require an adjustment to recruiting efforts, assignment processes, and personnel policies. Assimilation of women into heretofore "closed units" will be informed by continual in-stride assessments and pilot efforts.

Using these guiding principles, positions will be opened to women following service reviews and the congressional notification procedures established by law. Secretary Panetta directed the military departments to submit detailed plans by May 15, 2013, for the implementation of this change, and to move ahead expeditiously to integrate women into previously closed positions. The secretary's direction is for this process to be complete by Jan. 1, 2016.

The Joint Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Women in Service Review Memorandum can be viewed at:

<http://www.defense.gov/news/WISRJointMemo.pdf>

The Chairman's Women in Service Review Memorandum can be viewed at:

<http://www.defense.gov/news/WISRImplementationPlanMemo.pdf>

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Stuff” on a Shingle (S.O.S.)

So, do you remember your first contact with the fabled S.O.S.? Was it Parris Island or did you “hold out” until your reached Lejeune or perhaps were aboard one of the many ships we shared? And, would you like to be re-introduced or share the delight with family and friends? Here is the original recipe that Marines have thrived on for more than 200 years. Tried once, you’re evermore addicted.

Gather the following ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds lean hamburger
- 2 tablespoons butter/margarine
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated garlic
- 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire
- 2 cups of milk

Salt and pepper to taste.

Brown the meat, then add the margarine/ butter stirring the mix thoroughly.

Throw in the chopped onions and simmer all until the onions are translucent.

Now, add the flour and cook for two to three minutes. Add the garlic, soy and Worcestershire sauces, again mixing thoroughly. Finally, add the milk and stir until all thickens:

“VOILA!!!,” you have an USMC treat that can be spread on biscuits, hash browns or toast. Remember to thank your old Mess Sgt who prepared that SOS for you.

Bon appetite, Marines.

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Widow(er)'s SSA Benefits

Normally, when a veteran dies the surviving spouse, starting at age 60 (50 if handicapped), is entitled to collect full monthly social security benefits based on the veterans' SSA account. This is true only if the widow(er) is not drawing another pension based on his/her prior employment (such as schoolteacher or postal worker) with an employer that had its own retirement plan under which there was no deduction for social security. However, if the widow(er) receives anything from that pension, regardless of the amount, his/her entitlement based on the veterans SSA account will be reduced by two thirds

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VA Pension/Disability

The following is from the Federal Benefits for Veterans 2012 edition: VA Pension by definition says that the person does not have and can not hold gainful employment due to disability and their total income is below the threshold set by law and regulation. The rules for working on a VA Disability are not so cut and dry and vary with the type of service compensation and each veteran's circumstances. There are several types of VA Service Compensation 100% disability for work purposes.

1. 100% Scheduler - rated 100% for physical disabilities based on the VA CFR schedule. Disabled veterans on a 100% scheduler disability can work without limitations except where the definition of the disability makes the presumption that the veteran is unable to hold a job.
2. 100% TDIU - Individual Unemployability - You are only allowed to be marginally employed. You can only make a certain amount of money, and if you make more than that marginally amount of money, your IU rating will be reviewed for possible reduction in your current rating!
3. 100% Scheduler for PTSD or other psychiatric disability - Veterans receiving 100% disability for PTSD may not work, as that is part of the definition of 100% disabled by psychiatric disability. The definition of 100% PTSD is, "Total occupational and social impairment, due to such symptoms as: gross impairment in thought processes or communication; persistent delusions or hallucinations; grossly inappropriate behavior; persistent danger of hurting self or others; intermittent inability to perform activities of daily living (including maintenance of minimal personal hygiene); disorientation to time or place; memory loss for names of close relatives, own occupation, or own name."
4. 70% TDIU - Individual Unemployability - The PTSD 70% definition is, "Occupational

and social impairment, with deficiencies in most areas, such as work, school, family relations, judgment, thinking, or mood, due to such symptoms as: suicidal ideation; obsessional rituals which interfere with routine activities; speech intermittently illogical, obscure, or irrelevant; near-continuous panic or depression affecting the ability to function independently, appropriately and effectively; impaired impulse control (such as unprovoked irritability with periods of violence); spatial disorientation; neglect of personal appearance and hygiene; difficulty in adapting to stressful circumstances (including work or a work like setting); inability to establish and maintain effective relationships." You can see that even at 70% employment is not consistent with the rating, and at 100%, "inability to perform activities of daily living" and "Total occupational and social impairment" says that work is an issue. Having this problem implies a person is unable to work. Veterans should exercise caution even if working as a volunteer. If the VA determines that the nature and amount of unpaid work that you are performing demonstrates that you are not unemployable, TDIU can be revoked. Anytime the VA revokes a TDIU rating, the amount of disability compensation drops to the level of the veteran's actual rating under the rating schedule. There are laws and regulations that protect VA disability ratings that have been in place for certain periods of time. If a VA award of service connection for a disability has been in effect for ten years or more, absent evidence of fraud in applying for compensation for that disability, the VA may not revoke service connection but can reduce the rating percentage. Similarly, if a specific rating percentage has been in effect for 20 years or more, absent evidence of fraud, the VA may not revoke service connection nor reduce that rating.

Bottom line, veterans assigned a VA disability rating are subject to reevaluation based on employment or improved condition. Lowering a rating is possible up to a point and the criteria for lowering can vary with each veteran's circumstances. The type and duration of any work is a major factor in the VA's decision on whether to lower or remove a preassigned percentage. If in doubt check with your assigned primary physician and/or local VARO for clarification on any limitations placed on you regarding employment or voluntary endeavors.

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Detachment Web Site or Locator Page

National Headquarters is tasking every Detachment in the Marine Corps League to focus on its Detachment web page or locator page. Many Detachments have not updated their locator page with current officers and mailing addresses. Some Detachments do not have a locator page and they are tasked to go to the MCL National web page under the Professional Development Program, duties of appointed officers and look up the Web Sgt. Specific information is listed on how to gear up your Detachment page. In addition, the Commandant of each Detachment can send a request for the Department Web Sergeant to become their Detachment Web Sgt in certain situations. This is good for the Department as a whole and ensures every detachment is on line as per National Headquarters CTO Richard Blum. If your detachment has not set up or updated their locator page, this is mandatory as per National HQ and will be addressed at the next Department Quarterly meeting.

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Bylaw Change Approved on Reinstatement Fees

In a letter dated September 30, 2012 National Adjutant/Paymaster Meg Thoburn said at the National Convention in Mobile, Ala., the floor voted to pass Bylaw Change No. 8.

According to the change, should a member remain in delinquent status in excess of one year, such member shall be dropped from all membership rolls. The member may be restored to "good-standing" status through the processing of a standard application form as a new reinstated member and forward the applicable renewal fee as currently established. Initiation fees will be waived. A member who is delinquent and wishes to retain the "continued membership status" shall do so by submitting the standard application form which shall be accompanied by ALL past dues which have accumulated during the entire period of the applicant's delinquent status.

Due to this change the \$5 reinstatement fee is no longer required on a delinquent member. If the member has been out for more than one year, he/she may either pay the current renewal fee of \$18, or if he/she wants continuous membership the member must pay the current renewal fee of \$18 multiplied by the number of years the member has been delinquent.

The Maps 1 program has been in effect for some time. This change will eliminate the requirement for submission of the reinstatement fees as a new member since the member should have received the membership pin already. Furthermore, this will reduce the workload at National Headquarters in the processing of the application and subsequent reimbursement to the detachment of the initiation.

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Detachment Desktop Procedures

The Detachment Commandant must ensure that the Adjutant and Paymaster maintain desktop procedures and all Detachment turn-over files, including copies of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Detachment Bylaws, MCL Ritual Manual, Articles of Incorporation, IRS Form 990-N e-file, state business license, annual corporate license, Report of Officer Installation, Detachment financial records, Detachment minutes, resolutions and Marine Corps League Guidebook for Detachment officers. These files must be kept in a secure area and readily available on demand from the Detachment Commandant, Department or National Commandant. These files serve as the Detachment history for audit purposes and are turned over to their respective successor. All equipment and files used for each respective officer position is never considered their personal items or materials but rather that of the position and must be turned over to their relief. This includes everything used during that officer's tenure as it belongs to the detachment. Anyone not turning over everything in their possession is a direct violation of their oath of installation and should be held accountable. During the yearly required detachment audit, these records and files should be made available for inspection as necessary and included in the report to the Detachment Commandant

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Naval Lingo: Geedunk

To most Marines and sailors the word geedunk means ice cream, candy, potato chips and other assorted snacks, or even the place where they can be purchased. No one, however, knows for certain where the term originated, but there are several plausible theories.

1) In the 1920's a comic strip character named Harold Teen and his friends spent a great amount of time at Pop's candy store. The store's owner called it The Geedunk for reasons never explained.

2) The Chinese word meaning a place of idleness sounds something like gee dung.

3) Geedunk is the sound made by a vending machine when it dispenses a soft drink in a cup.

4) It may be derived from the German word tunk meaning to dip or sop either in gravy or coffee. Dunking was a common practice in days when bread, not always obtained fresh, needed a bit of tunking to soften it. The ge is a German unaccented prefix denoting repetition. In time it may have changed from getunk to geedunk.

Whatever theory we use to explain geedunk's origin, it doesn't alter the fact that Navy people are glad it all got started

--Calendar of Events

2013 Marine South will be April 10 -11, 2013 at MCB Camp Lejeune, NC.

2013 Department of Delaware Convention will be April 27, 2013, at VFW Post 4961, Seaford, Delaware.

2013 Department of MD Convention will be April 26 - 28, 2013 at Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. Rooms Oceanside or front is \$129.00 plus tax, pool side \$92.00 plus tax. Mention MCL. For more information contact Convention Chairman Stuart Blair at 410-665-6440 or 1-800-476-9253.

2013 Department of WV Convention will be May 3-4, 2013 at Pullman Plaza Hotel, 1001 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701 hosted by Huntington Detachment 340. Rooms \$99.00 plus 13% tax, Banquet \$19.00, Free breakfast, parking and internet plus one choice drink at bar. Reservation: 1-866-613-3611 or 1-304-525-1001 and mention Marine Corps League. POC: Richard Shank II (304) 360-1632.

2013 Department of Virginia - 2013 Department Convention May 17-19, 2013 at Sandcastle Ocean Front Hotel, 1307 Atlantic Avenue, 14th Street & Atlantic Blvd at Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451 Rooms: \$99.00 plus room tax, includes full hot breakfast for each guest, call hotel for reservations at 757-428-2828 or 800-233-0131 and mention **The Marine Corps League**. Reservations need to be made NLT 17 April to receive this rate. Banquet cost is \$45.00 p/p. POC is David Hord, 253 South Plaza Trail, Va. Beach, VA 23452-5444, yogih220@verizon.net 757-567-1252
Schedule of events: 17 May 1800 Hospitality, 1900 Professional Development
2000 Hospitality Continues, 18 May 0900-1600 Meeting, 1800 Hospitality

2013 Department of NC Convention will be May 31-June 2, 2013, hosted by Cpl. Suzi Sannes Detachment# 1262 in Rocky Mount, NC at the Holiday Inn Express, 200 Enterprise Drive, Rocky Mount, NC 27804. Phone: 252-937-7100 Rooms: \$89 per night plus tax and ask for the **DoNC Marine Corps League** choice King or two Queen beds with deadline 1 May 13. Registration is \$10 and banquet is \$40.00 with deadline 15 May 13.

2013 Mideast Division, Annual Conference hosted by the Department of Maryland & the Antietam Detachment #113 will be held June 28 – 30, 2013 at the Clarion Hotel, Hagerstown MD, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown MD 21740. The room rate is \$79 per night, king or double room. Please make your room reservation direct with the hotel no later than June 4, 2013, by calling 301-733-5100. The closing Banquet will be held at the Clarion Hotel and will cost \$40 per person. The menu will be buffet style. Conference registration is \$8. POC is Carl W. Lenhart, 4319 Araby Church Road, Fredrick, MD 21704-7709

2013 MCL National Convention will be August 4-9, 2013, at Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids, MI. Reservations: 1-800-253-3590. Rooms \$110 plus 14% tax per night, includes free hot breakfast, self parking and Internet in guest room.

2014 MCL National Convention will be August 3 - August 9, 2014 at Embassy Suites (\$114.00 plus 12% tax) and Town Center Marriott (\$119.00 plus 12% tax) in Charleston, WV.

Semper Fidelis,

Bud Raines
NVC, Mideast Division