



Mideast Division Bulletin September 4-13

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: 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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Letter to all Members from National Vice Commandant Mideast Division

To the Membership of the Mideast Division:

I want to thank the members of the Mideast Division at the National Convention for the honor and privilege of being elected National Vice Commandant. It is a big responsibility which I accept proudly and I will do my best to represent the members of our Division.

I completed two years as the Assistant NVC for the Mideast Division and have developed a working relationship with all the Department Commandants and I look forward to the next two years working with them.

During my time in the Marine Corps League, I have served several terms as Detachment Commandant, of Wood County Detachment #1087, Department of West Virginia. I also served as the Commandant for the Department of West Virginia from 2007-2009. I plan on using my column in the 'Semper Fi' magazine to reinforce current policies of the Marine Corps League, as well as addressing challenges within the Mideast Division that we can overcome. Every League Member is a salesperson in recruiting new members and promoting the Marine Corps League. Remain positive in all your activities!

I would also like to thank Bruce Rakfeldt, your newly elected Assistant National Vice Commandant, for stepping up to the job.

Take care of yourselves and never fail to offer assistance to any distressed Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen, their dependents and widows of deceased Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike McLain

2013 Proposed National Bylaws Summary

The National Budget Committee recommended a \$2 dues increase and the body voted to approve the measure effective January 1, 2014. Here is a summary of the proposed bylaws changes.

BL #1: Rejected that the NJA should be elected for a term of 2 years and may stand for one consecutive additional term.

BL #2: Approved that US Navy Chaplains having earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines are eligible for regular membership.

BL #3: Rejected that Navy Corpsmen who earn FMF Ribbon or MC Warfare Device be eligible for regular membership. Corpsmen who are FMF qualified and serve with Marines are eligible for regular membership.

BL #4: Rejected as involving Navy Corpsmen and similar to BL #3 that was rejected.

BL #5: Approved that MCL life member fee for age 61 and over be removed and replaced with new life member fee for age tier 51 - 64 is \$300 and age 65 and over is \$200 effective January 1, 2014.

AP #1: Approved that the Young Marines of the MCL be recognized as subsidiary organization of the MCL and that no member, Division, Detachment or Department shall interfere with day - day operation of the Young Marines.

AP #2: Approved that the composition of a Hearing Board be consistent with time line and preemptory challenge allow more stable composition of the Hearing Board.

AP #3: Approved that a copy of the appeal by respondent or petitioner be submitted to the other and jurisdictional JA.

Encl 3 #1: Reject that Division VC Devil Dog wear gold cover after leaving office.

Encl 3 #2: Approved that cover with 3/8" in height and 1/4" lettering on covers.

Encl 3 #3: Rejected to wear flag on blazer.

Encl 4 #1 Rejected the Ceremonial Guard Medal and Ribbon

Encl 4 #2: Rejected as the National Uniform Committee Board is rewriting the whole uniform section and will present at Mid Winter Conference and they didn't want to have to rewrite to add something else in now.

Ritual: Rejected that the current Ritual for Oath of Membership be changed to use the oath of enlistment or commissioning taken for joining the USMC.

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National Convention Summary

Approximately 800 MCL members attended the National Convention. The current slate of National officers remained the same. Mike McLain, Department of WV was elected NVC Mideast Division and Bruce Rakfeldt, Department of North Carolina was elected Assistant NVC Mideast Division. The 2014 National Convention will be August 3-9, 2014 in Charleston, WV and the 2015 National Convention will be at the Scottsdale

Plaza Hotel in Scottsdale, AZ. The winner of the Jeep Raffle for Marines Helping Marines was won by a member from Dept of TX. The National Marine of the Year was Polly Weidenkopf from Dept of TX. The Kennel Dog of the Year was Tom Hazlett Sr from the Pennsylvania Pack. 83 Devil Dogs advanced to PDD status.

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Annual Dues and Life Member Fee Increase

During the business meeting at the 2013 National Convention in Grand Rapids, the membership approved a \$2 dues increase in the annual dues and approved a change in the life member tier for age 61 and over to become effective January 1, 2014

The current life member fee for members 51 to 60 is \$300 and over 61 is \$150. What changed was the age tier will be age 51 to 64 is \$300, and anyone age 65 and over is \$200. As you see this is a double of fees for anyone age 61-64 now and a \$50 increase for age 65. I recommend that each detachment send a personal letter to all members age 61 and over who are not currently life members and bring the dues and life fee changes to their attention. I believe a letter is best vice a phone call because once you hang up, most of the members might forget what you told them about the price increases; but, they can read your letter and have a better understanding of the impact of these increases. The focus is on saving them money and avoid the price increases.

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Mideast Division Training Class in Grand Rapids, MI at National Convention



GOOD TIME -- Mideast Division members give an “attitude adjustment” class to Larry Sobczak, standing, fifth from left in red shirt, a Navy Cross recipient from the Department of Illinois among Marines attending the 2013 National MCL Convention in Grand Rapids, Mich. Joining him are, standing left to right, Mike Francis, WV; David Seitz, VA.; Mike McLain, WV.; Bob Lent, VA.; Larry Sobczak, Roger Ware WV.; Gregory Hunt, NC; Charlie Minton, NC.; Jack Severn, MD.; and seated, Bruce Rakfeldt and Jeffrey Jones, both of NC.

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2014 National Convention Challenge Coin

The Department of West Virginia National Convention Committee has designed and had fabricated 500 challenge coins that focus on the 2014 National Convention in Charleston, WV. These coins are being sold for \$10 each to help generate funds to support the 91st National Convention. Here is what the coin looks like:



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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, 2013 to Sept 1, 2014. The Certificate of Insurance should be kept in your permanent files. 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 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. 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.

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IRS Form 990-N e-file

All Detachments are nonprofit organizations and are required to file an annual IRS Form 990-N return regardless of their income. The fiscal year ends for all detachments on June 30 yearly so you can file your 990 N efile after July 1. Log on <http://epostcard.form990.org/> and then just follow the instructions to complete the form 990-N. There's only a few questions. Have your EIN to help log in. You will receive an email confirmation from IRS. National Administrative Procedures Section 800 requires that each detachment forward a copy of this IRS confirmation to National Adjutant/Paymaster Meg Thoburn at mthoburn@mcleague.org and also forward a copy to the Department Paymaster. National utilizes these 990 reports to update the annual report required by the Group Exemption filing requirements to IRS. Failure to file the

990 N to IRS, can subject your detachment to lose it's exempt non-profit status.

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Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members

Another reminder is sent to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the membership roster dated 6/30/13 from National. Upon receipt is the best time to do this so it's not forgotten. These are due at National before Dec. 31. The Detachment Commandant and Paymaster must sign a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the life member list is audited and is true and accurate and that there are no changes and forward the original to your Dept Paymaster. He will send this to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. Ref: National Bylaws Sections 645 and 646.

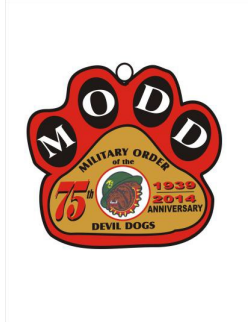
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Department & Detachment Minutes and Paymaster Reports

During the general business meeting at the National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI one of the national staff officers mentioned that one of the detachments in his department was audited by IRS. He suggested that Departments and Detachments should keep their Meeting Minutes and Paymaster Reports permanent which would be helpful should IRS conduct an audit of any detachment or department.

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75th Military Order of the Devil Dogs Anniversary Tag



The Military Order of the Devil Dogs 75th Anniversary Commemorative Committee is planning to have a great celebration topped off with a commemorative dog tag during the 2014 National Convention in Charleston, WV, from Aug. 3-9, 2014. The tag will be limited and will be authorized to wear on your collar along with your current silver or brass dog tag, similar to how the 50th anniversary tag is worn. If you were privileged to get one of those, you will be able to wear all three! Please note, any member of the Order in good standing (Pup, Devil Dog, or Pedigreed Devil Dog) will be able to get a tag. "In good standing" means you are current with your dues. Please review the rules given below so you can receive one of these tags. Committee members are working hard to ensure all bylaw changes for the Order (and the League) will be completed in 2014 in order to allow this item to be worn.

As stated above, this will be a limited item, and, as such, there will be procedures to follow in order to get one. The Committee discussed this at length and have decided to implement the following rules to procure a commemorative tag.

Each individual who wants a tag must pick it up personally. Medical exemptions can be requested and if granted these DD's can be advanced to PDD status, but since these

individuals will not be attending the Convention, they will not be issued a 75th anniversary tag. Only one will be given per Devil Dog. You will be responsible for the tag upon receipt. If you lose it, even a few minutes after you pick it up, you will be out of luck. There will be no replacements. Make sure you secure the item when you get it. In fact, I think the safest thing to do will be to immediately put it on your collar.

There will be an area dedicated to the distribution of the tags, either in or immediately around the Dog House. In order to pick your tag up, you must:

1. Attend the 2014 National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia from Aug. 3-9, 2014. Make sure your Detachment has registered you.
2. Present your current MODD Membership Card.
3. Present your 2014 Convention Credentials, for both the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.
4. Present your passport with the MODD Stamp for the 75th Supreme Growl. You can get this in the dog house that week.
5. You will be required to print your name and sign for your tag. We will have rosters available for this purpose.

Once you sign for your tag, it will be issued to you. Again, I stress that you will be responsible for the tag upon receipt. No one will be issued a second one.

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2014, at noon, we will secure the table where the tags are issued, and all remaining tags will be locked up. Any remaining tags will be destroyed. No one will be able to receive a tag once the event is closed. This will include losing it for any reason in the future.

Marine Corps League
August 3, 2014 – August 9, 2014
Embassy Suites Hotel

300 Court Street ~ Charleston, WV 25301

www.EmbassySuitesCharlestonWV.com

Telephone: 304-347-8700 Fax: 304-345-8276

The Embassy Suites Hotel has reserved a block of suites at the rate of \$114.00/single, \$114.00/double \$124.00/triple, \$134.00/quad. Includes internet and parking and breakfast.

To reserve a suite at this rate, please make your reservation by 6/30/2014 by calling 1-800-EMBASSY or 304-347-8700 or go online www.embassysuitescharlestonwv.com.

After 6/30/2014 date the rooms will no longer be available @ the rate listed above. Please note that the Embassy web site details points of interest in the Charleston area.

You must use the 3 letter code - MCP - name when making reservations in order to receive the discounted rate. Online you will enter MCP in the group/convention code space (located on left side of screen under “ADD SPECIAL RATE CODES” tab).

Check-In time is 4:00 PM and Check-Out time is 12:00 PM. Requests for early arrival, late departure, room type or floor assignments cannot be guaranteed. Reservations must be cancelled by 4:00 PM the day of arrival to avoid charges.

The complimentary breakfast is available Weekdays 6:00 AM – 9:00 AM and Weekends 7:00 AM – 10:30 AM. The breakfast includes a made-to-order omelet station along with your favorite breakfast items.

Join us for the Manager’s Reception from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM each evening. This includes complimentary cocktails, non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks.

Embassy Suites offers a complimentary shuttle to and from Yeager Airport. Also available is an indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool and exercise facility and a 24-hour business center.

From I-64 East...Huntington, Kentucky & Ohio

Take the Lee Street Exit #58C. At the light turn Right onto Lee Street. Follow Lee Street 3 blocks. Embassy Suites is on the LEFT.

From I-77 South...Parkersburg & Ohio

Take the Washington Street Exit #58C. Go through the 1st light. At the 2nd light turn Left onto Lee Street. Follow Lee Street 3 blocks. Embassy Suites is on the Left.

From I-79 South...Pittsburg, Morgantown & Fairmont

Take the Washington Street Exit #58C. Go through the 1st light. At the 2nd light turn Left onto Lee Street. Follow Lee Street 3 blocks. Embassy Suites is on the Left.

From I-77 North...Beckley, Virginia & North Carolina

On I-77 North you will veer Right to I-64 West. From I-64 West take the Washington Street Exit #58C. Go through the 1st light. At the 2nd light turn Left onto Lee Street. Follow Lee Street 3 blocks. Embassy Suites is on the Left.

From Yeager Airport

Take Airport Road down to Greenbrier Street. Take I-64 West. Take the Leon Sullivan Way Exit. At light turn Right on Washington Street. Follow Washington Street 3 blocks. Embassy Suites is on the Left.

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5 Things every Marine should know about Unlawful Command Influence

This information is taken from an article published on page 3 of *Marine Corps Times* 20 August 2013 issue written by Antonietta Rico and Hope.

Marines facing court-martial have successfully used the objection of “unlawful command influence” to get their cases thrown out or their punishment reduced. Because of controversial comments Marine Corps commandant Gen. James Amos made during a 2012 “Heritage Brief” tour regarding Marines accused of sex offenses, the allegation has become an increasingly common defense in these and other cases.

With the current military offensive against sex assault in the ranks, the Department Defense has been forced to clarify that military juries must ignore any perceived pressure coming from military leaders when judging cases. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

issued a memo Aug. 6 saying judgment of military defendants “must be based purely on the facts of each individual case” not personal interest or a desire to produce a certain verdict.

1. Abuse of power. The Manual for Courts-Martial defines unlawful command influence to be when a commander tries to “coerce or, by any unauthorized means, influence” the findings or outcome of a court martial or military tribunal. But it is not always necessarily a commander, actions by staff of the commander or noncommissioned officers can also be construed as UCI.

2. Limited application Unlawful command influence can be present in some NJPs too, not just courts-martial. But UCI cannot apply to administrative actions such as separation from the Marine Corps.

3. Pressure or manipulation UCI can happen before or during a court martial. If a commander pressures a subordinate to bring charges against someone, it can be considered unlawful command influence, too. It also applies if, before a trial, the convening authority selects potential jury members to get a specific result. During a trial if any of the players, such as judges, defense or witnesses, are pressured, intimidated or coerced to act or not to act, it can be considered UCI.

4. Dangerous statements Commanders should avoid public statements on innocence, guilt or appropriate punishment, according to The USN/USMC Commander’s Quick Reference Handbook for Legal Issues. Former Marine Corps trial judge Lt. Col Robert Palmer has seen a number of his convictions successfully appealed because of troubling statements, including calling those accused of sexual assault “scumbags” who needed to be “crushed.” Amos also faces allegations regarding his comments about Marines accused of urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

5. How to appeal If Marines suspect that unlawful command influence has tainted their UCMJ action or their case, they can consult their local judge advocate’s office. To get more information on UCI, they can see the Manual for Courts-Martial, or commanders can see the Handbook for Legal Issues.

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Modern Day Marine Exposition Quantico VA

Modern Day Marine Military Exposition is an international exhibition of marine requirements, research and development, acquisition, procurement and professional school activities that takes place aboard MCB, Quantico, VA from September 24-26, 2014. Marine Corps League members are needed to assist in the MCL promotional area and to help pass out Exposition brochures and MCL promotional items. League members who can assist are requested to check in with National Sgt-at-Arms Neil Corley at one of the MCL promotion tents on Tuesday morning, September 24.

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Calendar of Events

2013 Modern Day Marine Expo will be September 24-26 at Quantico MCB.

2014 National Midwinter Staff Conference Feb 13-15, 2014 at Fairview Park Marriott, 311 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042 (703) 849-9400. Room rate is \$99 per night plus room tax.

2014 Marine South will be April 9-10 at Camp Lejeune, NC

2014 Department of WV Department Convention will be May 2-4, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV hosted by Eastern Panhandle Detachment 1143

2014 Mideast Division Conference will be June 27-29, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV hosted by Eastern Panhandle Detachment 1143.

2014 MCL National Convention will be August 3 - August 9, 2014 at Embassy Suites (\$114.00 plus 12% tax) tele: 304-347-8700, mention code **MCP**, and Town Center Marriott (\$119.00 plus 12% tax) tele: 304-345-6500 in Charleston, WV. Reservations can be made commencing August 26, 2013. Each hotel includes breakfast, internet and parking with room rate.

2015 MCL National Convention will be August 2015 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, Arizona 85253. Room rate is \$94 plus room tax. Phone 480-948-5000

Semper Fidelis,

Mike McLain
NVC
Mideast Division