



BUCKTAIL DETACHMENT # 856
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
 Post Office Box 175
 Renovo, Pennsylvania 17764-0175

DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER
 January 2009

ATTENTION ALL MARINES!!!

Our January Detachment meeting will be held at 1930, Thursday, 15 January 2009 at the **Sons of Italy** Building, 111 12th Street, Renovo, Pa. Plan to attend. Please mark your calendar now!!!

Check out our WEB Page on the Internet at:
<http://www.kcnet.org/~dmiller2/>

“The first Pennsylvania Detachment on the Internet”

Also, check out Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania’s Web page at:
<http://www.pamcleague.org>

DETACHMENT OFFICERS – 2008/09

Commandant	
John J. Tarantella, Sr.	923-2538
Senior Vice Commandant	
Ronald E. Hans	
Junior Vice Commandant	
Joseph M. Egger	923-2136
Judge Advocate	
Francis Van Kirk	748-8588
Adjutant	
Amy Snyder	748-6645
Paymaster	
Donald C. Miller	923-1731
Chaplain	
Arthur O. Kramer	923-1888
Assistant Chaplain	
Francis Van Kirk	748-8588
Sergeant-at-Arms	
John D. Hills	726-4193
Junior Past Commandant	
Donald C. Miller	923-1731
Honorary Commandant	
Vincent V. Tarantella	923-0883

CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

If you know of a member or the family of a member who is in distress, sick in the hospital, or bereaved by the death of a family member please contact the Detachment’s Chaplain, **Art Kramer** at **923-1888**, and

if he is not available, one of the Detachment officers with the appropriate details.

PAYMASTER’S REPORT

A summary of the Detachment’s financial status as of the end of December 2008 is attached for information. The detailed report for each of our financial accounts is always available for your inspection at every monthly meeting.

EDITORS NOTES

First of all, I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year!!!

As a result of the untiring efforts of those members of the detachment involved in the 2008 Toys for Tots program we had another great year. We have unending thanks for the work of **Amy Snyder, Joe Egger, Francis Van Kirk, John Tarantella, Sr.** and **Dan Hills**. Each of them spent many, many hours carrying out this program. The local economy certainly had an impact on this year’s program. We served more children and their families this year than we have ever done since our first involvement in this program. **Amy Snyder**, our Local Toys for Tots Coordinator, advised that we provided 6,358 toys to 1151 children. This is about 200 more children than we helped the prior year. That is quite an accomplishment.

Last month we had only one Clinton County residential fire and with the help of **Dan Hills** we were able to get the Detachment’s usual \$100.00 check to the burned out victim shortly after the fire. Thanks Dan. Let us hope that that will be the only fire for this winter of 08/09.

I don’t know how many of you visit the Detachment’s Web Site but if you do you will notice that I have now posted our latest Detachment Newsletters on the site. It makes for an easy way to read the Newsletter and serves as a good reference source. Take a look.

Your Editor was recently made aware of an interesting web site that may be of interest to the members of the

Detachment. The site is called "Together We Served" and it can be accessed at <http://marines.togetherweserved.com>. I wholeheartedly encourage those of you who are not aware of it to take a look at the site. I was truly surprised to see the number of detachment members who are already members. It is a great site for biographical information on some of our members and for locating some of the Marines that you may have served with while on active duty.

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VETERANS AND YOUTH RAFFLE TICKETS

It is that time of year again. Your Paymaster is holding a couple of thousand raffle tickets that he will bring to this month's meeting for distribution and sale. The sale of these tickets is the major fund raising event for the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League and, as a by-product, a great fund raising event for the Detachment. The Detachment retains \$0.40 from each ticket sold. The sale of these raffle tickets is a win/win for both the Department and the Detachment. Each member will be sent ten tickets in the near future. We ask that you either purchase these tickets yourself or get out there and sell them to someone else. Please do your part.

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DETACHMENT KNIT SHIRTS

As was mentioned in our last couple of newsletters, the Detachment has available a very attractive red knit shirt with collar that is available to the members. This shirt has the Marine Corps emblem and detachment name embroidered on the left front of the shirt – right over the heart. We are hoping that the membership when not wearing their league casual uniform will wear these shirts to our detachment meetings. By doing this we would present good looking informal appearance. Everyone at the meeting would be in the uniform of the day – the red knit shirt and red cap. These shirts, at the option of the member, can be purchased at a cost of about \$15.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing one of these red knit shirts please contact your paymaster.

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WHAT MAKES MARINES DIFFERENT?

An Army officer sums up what makes Marines different.

By Col. Daniel F. Bolger, USA (Excerpt from DEATH GROUND: TODAY'S AMERICAN INFANTRY IN BATTLE)

"What makes Marine infantry special?"

Asking this question misses the most fundamental point about the United States Marine Corps. In the Marines, everyone--sergeant, mechanic, cannoneer, supply man, clerk, aviator, cook--is a rifleman first. The entire Corps, all 170,000 or so on the active rolls, plus the reserves, are all infantry. All speak the language of the rifle and bayonet, of muddy boots and long, hot marches. It's never us and them, only us. That is the secret of the Corps."

"If Army infantry amounts to a stern monastic order standing apart, on the edge of the wider secular soldier world, Marine infantry more resembles the central totem worshipped by the entire tribe. Marines have specialized, as have all modern military organizations. And despite the all-too-real rigors of boot camp, annual rifle qualification, and high physical standards, a Marine aircraft crew chief or radio repairman wouldn't make a good 0311 on a squad assault. But those Marine technical types know that they serve the humble grunt, the man who will look the enemy in the eye within close to belly-ripping range. Moreover, all Marines think of themselves as grunts at heart, just a bit out of practice at the moment. That connections creates a great strength throughout the Corps."

"It explains why Marine commanders routinely, even casually, combine widely disparate kinds of capabilities into small units.... Marines send junior officers and NCOs out from their line rifle companies and expect results. They get them, too." "Even a single Marine has on call the firepower of the air wing, the Navy, and all of the United States. Or at least he thinks he does. A Marine acts accordingly. He is expected to take charge, to improvise, to adapt, to overcome. A Marine gets by with ancient aircraft (the ratty C-46E Frog, for example), hand-me-down weapons (such as the old M-60 tanks used in the Gulf War), and whatever else he can bum off the Army or cajole out of the Navy. Marines get the job done regardless, because they are Marines. They make a virtue out of necessity. The men, not the gear, make the difference. Now and again, the Marines want to send men, not bullets."

"This leads to a self-assurance that sometimes comes across as disregard for detailed staff-college quality planning and short shrift for high-level

supervision. Senior Army officers in particular sometimes find the Marines amateurish, cavalier, and overly trusting in just wading in and letting the junior leaders sort it out. In the extreme, a few soldiers have looked at the Corps as some weird, inferior, ersatz ground war establishment, a bad knockoff of the real thing. 'A small, bitched-up army talking Navy lingo,' opined Army Brigadier General Frank Armstrong in one of the most brutal interservice assessments. That was going too far. But deep down, many Army professionals tend to wonder about the Marines. Grab a defended beach? Definitely. Seize a hill? Sure, if you don't mind paying a little. But take charge of a really big land operation? Not if we can help it."

"Anyone who has watched an amphibious landing unfold would be careful with that kind of thinking. The Marines actually have a lot in common with their elite Army infantry brothers, if not with all the various Army headquarters and service echelons. True, Marine orders do tend to be, well...brief. But so do those of the airborne, the air assault, the light-fighters, and the Rangers, for the same good reason: Hard, realistic training teaches soldiers how to fight by doing, over and over, so they need not keep writing about it, \regurgitating basics every time. More enlightened soldiers consider that goodness. A three-inch thick order, a big CP, and lots of meeting do not victory make. The Marines consciously reject all that."

"A Corps infused with a rifleman ethos has few barriers to intra-service cooperation. The Army talks a great deal about combined arms and does it down to about battalion level, often with great wailing and gnashing of the teeth. Marines do it all the way down to the individual Marine. Soldiers have defined military occupational specialties and guard their prerogatives like a union shop stewards. Finance clerks don't do machine guns. Mechanics skip foot marches to fix trucks. Intell analysts work in air-conditioned trailers; they don't patrol.

Marines, though, are just Marines. They all consider themselves trigger pullers. They even like it, as might be expected of an elite body."



New ATV MRAPs Wanted for Afghan War

December 10, 2008 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon is fast-tracking a multibillion-dollar competition to outfit ground forces in Afghanistan with new, off-road terrain vehicles that protect against rocket-propelled grenades and explosive devices. The military says it needs hybrid armored vehicles to provide the same type of protection as mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles, while being far more agile, lighter and providing increased maneuverability to handle Afghanistan's rocky terrain, according to a request for bids released late Monday.

"This is a high priority accelerated acquisition in support of the global war on terror," according to the Pentagon request, which means manufacturers would have to set aside other projects to meet the military's demand as soon as possible. The first set of vehicles is expected to be delivered next fall.

The Defense Department said it could buy between 2,080 and 10,000 of the so-called MRAP-All Terrain Vehicles for use by the Army and Marines Corps.

Among the companies likely to compete for the contract are: the U.S. subsidiary of British defense conglomerate BAE Systems PLC, Lockheed Martin Corp., Humvee maker AM General and Navistar International Corp. The Pentagon has spent roughly \$24 billion so far on the current MRAP program.

This latest batch of vehicles requested by the Pentagon would be in addition to the more than 1,100 MRAPs already in Afghanistan, and the nearly 9,000 in Iraq, which have been built by General Dynamics Corp., Force Protection Inc. and others. Blasts from roadside bombs are the leading cause of combat deaths in Iraq and have become a growing threat in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon has been seeking to replace and refurbish its military trucks like the Humvee, and reassessing what types of vehicles it needs as it further engages in operations in countries like Afghanistan.

The Army and Marines in October picked teams led by Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and BAE Systems to compete in developing a lightweight tactical vehicle to replace the Humvee. That contract, which could be worth up to \$20 billion, has been put on hold after Northrop Grumman Corp. and its partner Oshkosh

jacket couldn't remove it and drowned. But Marines complained that the tab snagged equipment, and are now told to tuck away the tab.

Unlike previous jackets, which Marines could just throw on and go, this one requires training or online video courses on how to wear it.

An initial 84,000 vests at a cost of more than \$84 million were ordered in September 2006, nine months after an urgent request came in from the field for better protection. Conway, who became commandant after the contract was issued, put a hold on the last batch of 20,000 vests, questioning their design and testing.

He later lifted the suspension and the Marine Corps ordered more than \$17 million worth of vests and replacement parts over the summer.

Sludge and Swamps Fail to Stop Marines

December 15, 2008

Marine Corps News | by Cpl. Aaron Rooks

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A cold breeze whisked through the air as the Marines lined up in groups of four in front of the water-filled culverts. The temperature slowly dropped as the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group stood quietly, looking upon the muddy terrain.

Then they began, diving quickly into the large cylinders that marked the beginning of the Battle Skills Training School Endurance Course. Little did these Marines know that this 3.4-mile course would be one of the most physically and mentally challenging events they'd ever take on.

The BSTS E-Course has broken off thousands of Marines for more than 10 years. The course features a multitude of natural and artificial obstacles that vastly outweigh the difficulty most Marines are used to. Participants are required to conquer muddy walls twice to three times their size, crawl through trenches filled with thick sludge and water, swim through deep swamps and run along rocky streams, just to name a few.

Master Sgt. Joel Morgan, director of BSTS, said it can take Marines anywhere from 41 minutes to one hour and 43 minutes to complete the course.

"This is the type of training most Marines come into the Marine Corps to do," Morgan said. "They want to train, get dirty and do challenging things like this to test themselves."

Morgan, a native of Fairmont, W.Va., has served on the BSTS training staff for the past year and eight months. During that time, he has seen more than 100 groups of 12 to 150 Marines take on the intimidating course.

BSTS Instructor Sgt. Robert Millar said the purpose of the course is to physically test Marines, provide combat conditioning and foster unit cohesion.

"The course is huge on teamwork," the Phoenix native said. "There are many obstacles that require the groups to work as a team. If they choose to not work together, it will be a very long 3.4 miles."

Millar added that most of the course's difficulty revolves around mental toughness. He said participants are constantly pushed to their limits in a variety of ways, which is something he sees affecting Marines throughout the course, especially now in the colder seasons of the year.

The beginning of the course misleads Marines, Millar said, referencing the first few obstacles offered along the course. Participants first must crawl through waist-high culverts, then run along a 1.5-mile trail, jump over a 6-foot wall, then run a little further until they reach their first mental challenge – an unexpected long, dark swamp.

"This is where the intimidation factor begins to kick in," said Millar, who's an infantry mortar man by trade. "They get trumped when they see something they're not used to like the swamps. That real mental unknown then kicks in and remains in their minds."

Capt. Catherine Deleal, commanding officer of H&S Company, agrees, stating that the course isn't something Marines can train for or expect. The Staten Island, N.Y. native said everyone just has to ask themselves if they're going to give in or make it through.

Millar explained that this is the point where teamwork really comes into play. Many Marines become afraid to cross the murky water and literally begin to freeze. Other smaller Marines, in Morgan's words, "can't touch the bottom and breathe at the same time." Without help from fellow teammates, some Marines won't last to the end.

“The most challenging part of the course was the swamps,” said Queens, N.Y. native Staff Sgt. Carlos Malagon, a Marine with 2nd MLG Communication Operations. “It just sucks you in. One person actually thought he was dehydrated while he was going through one of them. That just shows how mentally and physically difficult they are and how much of an effect they have.”

The remainder of the course features a 10-foot rope climb, eight 6-foot hurdles and a 1.5-mile creek run.

“The water level along the creek varies from knee-high to waist-high,” Millar explained. “The creek really exhausts the Marines. No matter how hard they push themselves, they will all be broke off by the time they pass the creek.”

As they make their way toward the finish, Marines confront more swamps, creeks and their newest challenges - sludge under low lying barbed-wire. Millar said everyone has to get extremely low to the ground to get through, so low that some people can't fit.

Gunnery Sgt. Marlon Hayes, managerial accounting chief, 2nd MLG Comptroller, managed to keep his face clean the entire course up until the point when he was forced to literally submerge himself deep into the sludge to slide under the wires.

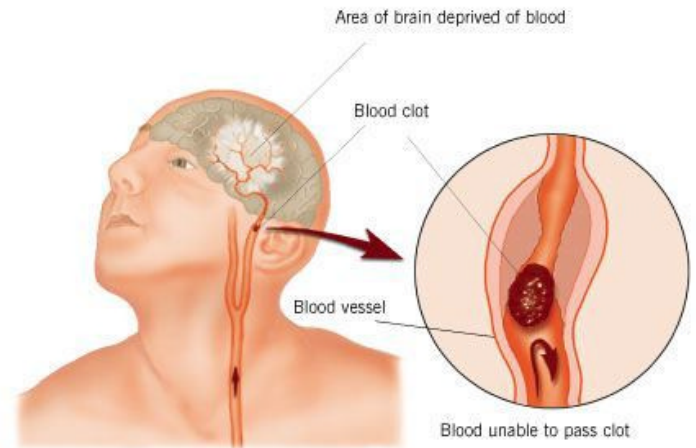
“I was having fun until then,” the New Orleans native said. “That horrible smell got into my nostrils and never left ... it sucked.”

Marines barely have enough energy left to reach the finish after they complete this final portion of the course, but eventually, they all make it.

“We're Marines, we have to adapt and overcome no matter what we face,” said Gunnery Sgt. Keith Priest, the H&S Company gunnery sergeant. “It takes that same confidence to get through each of these obstacles. In turn, every individual who completes this course can apply that same confidence to their everyday lives.”

The instructors at BSTS agree that the course brings out both the best and the worst in most individuals. It takes participants to their physical and mental limits causing many to break down along the way. The key is that they pick themselves up as a team and make it through to the end.

Blood Clots/Stroke - They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue



STROKE: Remember the 1st Three Letters....S.T.R.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) .she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00 pm Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. they end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR .
Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The

stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sig n' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.



LOVE THAT JUDGE

Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day

In Florida , an atheist created a case against the Easter & Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews & observances of their holy days The argument was it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized day.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed."

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter & others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur & Hanukkah. Yet my client & all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Counsel, your client is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists"

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is 'April Fools Day.' Psalm 14:1 states 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that

if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."



HAVE YOU HEARD:

Aphorism: A short, pointed sentence expressing a wise or clever observation or a general truth; adage.

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 AM. -It could be a right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game." when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.
15. Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies)
18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.
19. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead!
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter, don't mind. And the one's that do mind don't matter.



MARINE RESPONSE TO A SPEEDING TICKET

Two California Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on I-15, just north of

the Marine Corps Air Station at Miramar . One of the officers was using a hand held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the crest of a hill. The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour. The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then turned off. Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet (Northrop Grumman aircraft) which was engaged in a low flying exercise near the location.



Back at the CHP Headquarters the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the USMC Base Commander. The reply came back in true USMC style:

Thank you for your letter. We can now complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down.

Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment location. Fortunately, the Marine Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position. The pilot also suggests you cover your mouths when cussing at them, since the video systems in these jets are very high tech.

Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.

Thank you for your concern.

Semper Fi

MONTHLY CASH DRAWING

Don't forget about our monthly meeting cash drawing! At the conclusion of each meeting a member's name is drawn from the hat and the winner receives a cash prize. However to claim the prize, the member must be in attendance. This sounds to me like a darn good incentive to be at each meeting. The prize is increased by ten dollars each month to a maximum of one hundred dollars until some lucky member can claim it. There was no winner of the December drawing so the pot is now at \$30.00 for this month's drawing.

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ATTACHMENT:

1. Summary of Financial Accounts for month ending December 2008 (**Members Only**)

12 January 2009
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