

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/>

April 2013 Edition



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SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III
Detachment # 115
Salisbury, MD

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2013 - 2014

Commandant: Ed Elder

Senior Vice Commandant: Jim Siegel
Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway
Paymaster: Andy Bouma
Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Bob Miller
Junior Past Commandant: Bill Marsich
Adjutant: Richard Hyson
Chaplain: Jim Siegel

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 8th, 2013 at 1900 (7:00 P.M.) at the American Legion Post 64, 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, MD 21801. Please make every effort to attend.

Important Upcoming Dates & Events

May 12	May 18	May 27

April 26 and 27, 2013: Department of Maryland Convention to be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Complete information and forms may now be viewed and printed out on the "Calendar of Events" page on our web site.
<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/calendar.htm>

2013 MCL National Convention (August 4 through 9, 2013) will be held at the 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. Complete information will be made available at a later date.

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Bob HORTIE, Jimmy Lee HOWARD, Ralph SMITH, Jim HENDERSON and Joseph BACHTLER are having or have recently had various health problems. Please keep these folks and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

"Membership Happenings"

(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)

<u>MAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 15th Rhuell GOSLEE 22nd Renee KELLEY 23rd Jimmie Lee HOWARD 27th Kyle HEBERLE	<u>MAY ANNIVERSARIES</u> Helen & Paul TOMKO (58 yrs)
<u>MAY MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> None	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN MAY</u> John FISHER
<u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor	<u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u> None reported to your editor

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Please send your \$22.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster. Also note we have a new paymaster....

Andy Bouma, Paymaster
32175 Bonhill Dr
Salisbury, MD 21804-1464

Initial dues for a new member are \$27.00 for the first year, thereafter yearly renewal dues are \$22.00.



**DON'T DELAY...JOIN TODAY
THEN CONSIDER GOING 'LIFE'
NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT**

A TRIBUTE TO THE F.M.F. CORPSMAN



*For those of us who heard and used the term "Corpsman Up," it is a term that remains everlasting in both our hearts and our minds. The truth is that we ask and expect far too much from these young men and women who are called Corpsmen, and who like most young Marines were first exposed to the horrors of war in ways most will never forget. Those assigned to the Fleet Marine Forces Marines (FMF) lived the way we did and that of the units to which assigned, and they endured and participated in every hardship and disappointment, as well as the praise and glory awarded their units.

*The truth is many in Vietnam were 18 years old and upwards, and were just as fearful of being hurt or killed as the rest were and like the rest failed to receive mail for extended periods of time. Like every other Marine in the ground combat units, Corpsmen dug their foxholes with other Marines, ate the same C-rations

as the rest, felt the stings of ants, leeches, bees, and scorpions, and they also dug their own toilets like the rest of us and they also buried their cans, papers, etc., after cooking and eating their meals. They were Just as tired as the rest and at times just as afraid of the unknown as was anyone else. However, Corpsmen still had to check on the sanitation of our locations, as well as tending to the minor and major injuries and ailments suffered sooner or later by all. And those ailments and injuries ran the gamut from diarrhea to coughs and colds, and from Elephant grass cuts which usually festered into very large and ugly sores, to the usual heat related issues such as heatstroke, and on to more serious mental and physical issues to include VD and other issues of that nature.

*Our Navy Corpsmen did all that while still carrying the gear needed to care for a platoon or company sized unit as well as carrying their own gear and weapons. And often times they were told to help out the locals with their illnesses, injuries, or wounds, and that in turn meant using up precious bandages and medications, which the Corpsman had carried in his pack and medical bags for his fellow Marines. That then caused the Corpsman to pray or ask help from somewhere that he would not run short of needed medications and supplies, and just in case and when the next firefight, or mine explosion, or enemy mortars or artillery might happen upon his unit.

*To ask the above of a young 18-22 year old FMF Corpsman, is asking much more than many in the field ever realized until much later and after the fact. After all, that Corpsman is thought by many to be an “expert” on wounds, or how to handle other major injuries, in addition to which medication might be needed and requested to be used for everything from fleas or hair lice to trench foot or crotch rot or pink eye. While every Corpsman that our units had in Vietnam might not have been quite as astute, courageous, gifted, and the logically- minded individuals we make them all out to be, I would love to have just one more time to shake their hands and hug them all, and to thank them all for that which they did for so many over the years, and especially for those units I was honored to be a part of.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZH3PsWBZsaU
For you DOC, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, BRAVERY AND CARING

MCL Organizational License Plates

The Department of Maryland has updated our current plate design. The round 2½” logo is being replaced with a 3” Eagle, Globe and Anchor (EGA). If you desire new plates please contact the new Dept License Plate Chairman Craig P. Reeling at 443-477-0670 or CPR@MarylandMarines.org . Cost is \$30 (\$25 to MVA + \$5 fee to Department of MD). This is a onetime fee to MVA. You continue to pay your normal registration in whatever month/year it is currently due.

If you currently have MCL plates and want the new ones, you will get a new number and will be required to surrender your old plates to MVA.



Federal Budget Cuts Hits Marine Corps

The Marine Corps’ premier ceremonial unit is the latest target of federal budget cuts. Several upcoming performances by the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment were abruptly canceled 15 MAR on orders from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, according to an official with knowledge of the situation. The unit is based in Washington and includes the “Commandant’s Own” Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, the service’s official Color Guard and its famed Silent Drill Platoon. All of the canceled shows — five total — were scheduled for the week of March 15th at Marine Corps bases in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The directive from Hagel’s office restricts travel. The Blue Angels, the Navy’s revered aerial acrobats, have also been grounded for the rest of the year due to sequestration cuts.

Myths & Misconceptions: Vietnam War Folklore by Michael Kelley July 1998

Editor's Note: Each edition of the "Sand-Flea" will now contain at least one of the 13 myths and misconceptions as written by Michael Kelley. Numbers 1 through 6 have previously been published.

Myth #7: Between 58,000 and 200,000 Vietnam Veterans Have Committed Suicide Coming Home

Fact #7: Between 58,000 and 200,000 Vietnam Veterans Have Committed Suicide Coming Home:

Though it has been widely reported that more VN veterans have committed suicide than died in the war, not a shred of verifiable data has ever been published to support such a preposterous assertion. What scientific explorations of Vietnam vet mortality have been undertaken all indicate the Vietnam vet suicide rate is only very slightly higher overall than that occurring in the general population? Since 1967, roughly 603,200 male suicides have been reported in the US. If the 150,000 Vietnam vets suicide figure were accurate, then fully 25% of all male suicides in the US since 1967 have been committed by Vietnam veterans! *One in four male suicides in the US since 1967 has been a Vietnam Veteran, even though Vietnam veterans constitute only 2% of total US male population.* Males commit 85.1% of all suicides in the US, and if the mythical rate was true, then 1% of the US population is committing 21% of all suicides. In that case, one of every five suicides in the US would be a Vietnam Veteran. Does either of these estimates seem plausible? The National rate of suicide is about 1.11% of all US deaths. The mythical rates of popular folklore tell us the VN vet suicide rate falls somewhere between 15% and 50% of all VN veteran mortality. The in-country suicide rate for US Army personnel during the war was reported by the Department of the Army as nine tenths of 1% (.934 of 1%, actually). A major, 1987, CDC study of Vietnam era mortality concluded that VN vets suffered a 17% higher mortality rate than non-Vietnam era vets of the same age, but only during the first five years after returning from the war. After the first five years home the rates were the same. In separate reviews of the CDC's findings, the American Medical Association and the New England Journal of Medicine both concluded that during the first five years after returning from the war, VN vets were 65% more likely to commit suicide than individuals of the same age group in the general population (both also noted the rate dropping to the national rate after the first five years). The national suicide rate was 1.11% of all deaths at the time and therefore the indicated suicide rate (1st five years only) for VN vets was 1.83% of all VN vet deaths (simply 1.11 x 1.65). Veterans Administration disability claim data appears to indicate that as of 1996, a total of roughly 363,000 VN vets (including those KIA) had died from all causes. The mythical rates would have us believe somewhere between 20% and 50% those deaths should have been from suicide. Even if the VN vet rate had remained constant at 1.83% of all deaths since the war, the AMA/NEJ/CDC predicted total would be less than 13,000 as of 1997. Patients of the VA Veterans Outreach Program (provides psychological counseling to VN & other vets), some of the most emotionally damaged survivors of the war, suffer a suicide rate that almost precisely matches the national 1.11% of all deaths rate. In 1997, the Australian Department of Veteran's Affairs published a comprehensive report on Vietnam veteran mortality (*Mortality of Vietnam Veterans - The Veteran Cohort Study* available on the Internet at: www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/mortal1.htm) that covered all Australian male Vietnam veteran deaths from the end of the war until December 31, 1994. It is perhaps the most important study of Vietnam veteran mortality to date. This exhaustive study found nothing to suggest that the risk of suicide was higher among its war veterans than among the general male population. Of particular interest is the fact the Australian researchers were able to identify the entire Australian Vietnam veteran population (59,036) and to verify the current status of 57,231 of those veterans! Of that 57,231 total, 3,840 died during or after the Vietnam War. Those figures are of great importance because they show the total mortality of Australian Vietnam veterans between 1965 and December 1994 was 6.71% of that population (3,840 divided by 57,231); our first, clear, hard and direct look at an actual Vietnam veteran population's overall mortality. Applied to our own 3.1 million Vietnam veteran population, the Australian data suggests our total mortality (including KIA) should have been about 208,010 veterans as of January 1, 1995. Subtract the 58,000 KIA and the indicated total of US Vietnam veterans who died after returning from Vietnam would be only 150,010 as of that date. If the Australian experience reasonably mirrors our own (and it is difficult to imagine why it would be significantly different) and the 150,000 suicide total is fact, then 100% of all US Vietnam Veterans deaths are the result of suicide and of no other cause. Application of the Australian Cohort Study data to our own VA's 363,000 total mortality estimate suggests a US total of 10,781 suicides. When applied to its own predicted total of 150,010 US post-war Vietnam veteran deaths as of January 1, 1995, it suggests a total US Vietnam Veteran suicide figure of only 4,455. There is unwarranted arrogance in the presumption trauma is the exclusive property of the combat soldier. Trauma is prevalent at all levels of society, and civilian life is laced with tragedy and violent death in doses comparable to, if not greater than, that of the combat soldier. In 1967 alone, for example, deaths by car accident in the US about equaled the total number of US troops who died in ALL of the Vietnam war! In 1990 alone, 38,866 Americans died of gunshot wounds (accidental and homicide), while in 1995, more than 20,000 were murdered by firearms alone. Either figure is greater than the number of US soldiers who died from gunshot wounds in

ALL of the Vietnam War, where only 18,452 died from that cause!

RAO Bulletins

Each month your editor attempted to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters.

However, what may be important to me may not be important to you and I may very possibly overlook something you as a veteran might like to know about, so I am providing a links below that will take you to the current bulletins so that you might look them over. The below bulletin is dated March 15th and April 1st, 2013.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130315%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130401%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

Life in Afghanistan is very difficult to bear right now. Our troops need our prayers for strength, endurance and safety. Stop for a moment each and every day and say a prayer for our troops around the world.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."



For the fourth month in a row we had NO Marines and/or Corpsman pay the ultimate sacrifice in our war on terrorism.

If You Are Not Willing To Stand Behind Our Troops,
Please, Please Feel Free To Stand In Front Of Them!

On behalf of a grateful nation.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
Support Our Troops



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

From your editor

If you are receiving this newsletter via "Snail Mail" and have email capability, please email me at 53usmc73@bvunet.net so that I can add you to my address book and cut down on the postage.

Any comments or suggestion on what should be in our newsletter! Articles/information you need! Let me know! The newsletter will go to press on or about the weekend following each meeting.

Don Elseroad, Editor

2013 – 2014 Officer's Installation



Past Commandant Andy Bouma (L front) swearing in
From (L to R) Judge Advocate Ed Hearthway,
Junior Vice Commandant Bob Miller, Senior Vice
Commandant Jim Siegel and Commandant Ed Elder



Junior Past Commandant Bill Marsich (L) passes
the gavel to Commandant Ed Elder (R)

Quotes about Marines

*The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they
could fight!*

MGen. Frank E. Lowe, USA; Korea, 26 January 1952

LINKS TO CHECK

<http://stg.do/bjSc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxR1tZ08FcI&feature=youtu.be>

Bear with short Ad before vidio <http://video.foxnews.com/v/2250631705001/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Ms84WfJwall&feature=pla

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/4MdNXtRZ5fI>

God Bless America

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --