

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

December 2012 Edition



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SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III

Detachment # 115

Salisbury, MD

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2012 - 2013

Commandant: Bill Marsich

Senior Vice Commandant: Temporarily Vacant

Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway

Paymaster: Andy Bouma

Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Ed Elder

Junior Past Commandant: Andy Bouma

Adjutant: Richard Hyson

Chaplain: Jim Siegel

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 9th, 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



MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

Location:

FAIRVIEW PARK MARRIOTT
3111 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

Date:

Thursday, Feb. 07, 2013 - Saturday, Feb. 09, 2013
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The Marine Corps League's Mid-Winter National Conference is open to all Marine Corps League members. The Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia, near National Headquarters. The room rate is \$95 per night, single or double. Please make your room reservations directly with the hotel, no later than 11 January 2013 by calling 703-849-9400. Be sure to tell them you are with the Marine Corps League.

Marine Military Expo West – 13-14 February 2013 – Camp Pendleton, CA

For complete info go here: <http://www.marinemilitaryexpos.com/modern-day-marine.shtml>

Marine Military Expo South – 11-12 April 2013 – Camp Lejeune, NC

For complete info go here: <http://www.marinemilitaryvexpos.com/modern-day-marine.shtml>

April 26 and 27, 2013: Department of Maryland Convention to be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Complete information will be made available at a later date.

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>JANUARY "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 5th Ralph CAPEN 71h John ROBINSON 9th Missy HYSON 9th Barbara MURRAY 9th William WHEATLEY 18th David CHERRY 24th Tara PARSONS 28th Sally HERLING 28 th Tom CORCORAN	<u>JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES</u> 10 th Betty & Charles SANDS (62 yrs)
<u>JANUARY MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Terry HERLING (2 yrs)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u> <u>JANUARY</u> Terry HERLING
<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**

Puller statue dedicated at Marine Corps Museum

On November 12, 2012 the long awaited bronze statue of Lt Gen Lewis B "Chesty" Puller, USMC was

unveiled and dedicated by the Marine Corps League at the USMC Museum, Quantico, Va. The statue resides on a hill looking down on and pointing toward the museum.



Possible Scam—Beware

Archie Sweet, the Department of South Carolina Commandant has reported a scam being run in SC. Two SC Detachment Officer have been contacted and swindled out of their personal funds, one in August and the other more recently by an individual claiming to be the Commandant and/or officer of a MCL detachment. He is alleging that a Marine member of his detachment has had vehicle problems on the Interstate near the person he contacts and is requesting financial assistance to get the said Marine home and that any financial assistance provide will be reimbursed by the caller or his detachment as soon as they can get to a Western Union Office or UPS Overnight to send you the funds. You will be told how and where to send the funds to this stranded Marine. There may even be follow-up calls within a few hours after you send the funds describing the needy Marine's home detachment activities and/or to explain the delay involved in getting the funds together to send to you. You may even be asked to send the Marine more money (\$500.00 or more) to pay a motel bill or vehicle repair bill, again stating any and all aid will be reimbursed but they fail to tell you not to hold your breath while waiting.

Commandant Sweet provided more information but the gist of it all is that you do not fall for anything of this nature especially if you do not know who you are dealing with and even if you do you need to try and verify somehow that the crisis does in fact exist and then let your conscious be your guide.

"Now I understand" By Paula Salky

My stepsister gave this speech on Veterans Day shortly after my stepbrother was killed in 2006. The words written here still resonate today. I'm always amazed at the number of people who don't understand what Memorial Day is all about. Perhaps after reading this, you will understand. And maybe next time, you will know not to say, "Happy Memorial Day."

"When my brother was 14, he told our parents that he wanted to go to a military school — he wanted more discipline in his life. Wanting discipline? I didn't understand. When he left for boot camp the day after his high school graduation, I didn't understand how or why he would choose such a life. I thought he could aspire to be so much more. When he came back from boot camp, he stood a little taller, appeared a little stronger — but he put this thing, this thing called the Marine Corps, above all else, including his family, and I didn't understand.

"He trained in the mountains, he trained in the desert, he trained at night, in the cold, in the rain and in the searing heat — how much training can one person need? I didn't understand. He was stationed in Washington, D.C., as part of a special detail assigned to protect the president of the United States and the White House. Impressive, yes — but why choose him? I just didn't understand.

"He completed his duty as an enlisted Marine, returned to Memphis to pursue a college degree from the University of Memphis and chose to do it through the ROTC (reserve officer training corps) program so that upon graduation, he would be commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps. Why more military? I didn't understand.

"He moved to Camp Pendleton near San Diego. More training. He went on his first mission: a Marine Expeditionary Force sailing from Camp Pendleton to Australia. Three ships and an aircraft carrier. They

would be at sea for six months stopping for several humanitarian missions and more training along the way. Then came Sept. 11, 2001 — the ships changed course and headed straight for the Persian Gulf. Robert helped secure an airstrip in Pakistan. He was there when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan.

“He returned to the States early in 2002 and was given orders to go to Quantico, Va., outside of Washington, D.C. — the Marine Corps headquarters. He was an instructor who trained Marines how to be officers. He didn’t like it much. The job was admirable enough, but he wasn’t seeing any ‘action.’ He wasn’t in a combat zone. In short, he had a desk job. ‘He’s safe,’ I thought, ‘what’s wrong with him — doesn’t he see that?’ I just didn’t understand.

“In 2005, we learned he would be moving to the island of Okinawa, Japan, for one year. Far away, yes, but at least he was still going to be safe. Approximately six weeks after he arrived in Okinawa — in December of 2005 — he was told there was going to be a group of specially trained officers sent to Iraq to train soldiers for the Iraqi army. They would live with the Iraqi army on an Iraqi military base. This was his chance to test his skills in a combat situation. He volunteered. And boy — that I did not understand. But Robert understood. Robert knew the risks. He also knew he couldn’t come home before his deployment to Iraq, so he flew me and our mother to Sydney, Australia, and we spent five incredible days together. On Jan. 23, 2006, he and the nine other Marines with whom he would train the Iraqi army left for Iraq. We sent packages, we wrote letters, we emailed. The conditions sounded deplorable, the job insurmountable — I still just did not understand.

“On Sept. 6, 2006, he came home on two weeks’ leave (‘A vacation from the war!’ I said). He was thin, he was tired, but believe it or not, he was happy. He was putting his skills to the test. It was hard, it was frustrating. It was his calling, he said. “Suddenly, I understood. This job, this career, this lifestyle. It was his calling. He never wanted to do anything else. The Marines, this was it for him.

“On Oct. 8, 2006, upon our family’s return from a religious celebration at our synagogue, there was a white government van parked in front of my parents’ house. We all walked in the back door while the Marines waited for us to let them in from the front door. Oh, I understood then. I understood all too well.

“We regret to inform you that Cpt. Robert Michael Secher was killed in action by a sniper’s bullet while on patrol mission in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.’

“The first words out of my father’s mouth were, ‘He loved you. He loved you all so much.’ And then he broke down in tears. He stood and hugged the Marine who stood so straight and tall in our den. The Marine hugged him back.

“Following his funeral, my parents’ house was full of Marines in uniform. They came from all over the country and the world — as far away as Japan and England — to pay their respects. As I spoke to one of the Marines, he said to me, ‘You know, tonight I’ve met at least six men — and each one said Robert was their best friend.’

“I now understand that my brother died doing exactly what he had his whole life wanted to do: He was a Marine, and he was working to make the world a better place. Was my understanding too little, too late? Maybe for Robert. But not for the other soldiers who are still there. And not for the many soldiers who are still going to be sent to Iraq. I understand why they are in Iraq and so many other places around the world: to ensure that the things we do every day and take for granted — going to sleep, waking up, praying in the way we want, where we want, when we want, dressing the way we are comfortable, walking safely down the street — should not be compromised.

“My brother, Capt. Robert Michael Secher, was 33 years old and died just over four weeks ago. He was a United States Marine. Our mother is from Germany, our father is a Holocaust refugee from Austria. Robert was a first-generation American. He was his parents’ only son. He went on to do great things and died a hero’s death.

The Marine Corps motto is **Semper Fidelis**, which means Always Faithful.

“Now, I understand.”

Paula Salky
Steamboat Springs

Myths & Misconceptions: Vietnam War Folklore

by Michael Kelley

July 1998

Note Editor's: Each edition of the "Sand-Flea" will now contain at least one of the 13 myths and misconceptions as written by Michael Kelley.

Myth #3: The Average Age of Soldiers Killed In Vietnam Was 19 Years

Fact #3? The Average Age of Soldiers Killed in Vietnam Was 19 Years:

This widely accepted urban myth probably owes its life the popular song, "Nineteen" released in England during the 1980s. According to the Department of Defense Combat Area Casualty File (CACF), the actual average age of the war's 58,000+ dead was 23.11 years. Given that that group represents a very substantial statistical sample, 23.11 is probably quite close to the average age of all who served in Vietnam.

Myth #4: The Americans Never Lost a Major Battle

Fact #4? The Americans never lost a major battle:

This myth owes its origins to semantics and ignorance more than rational analysis. It completely ignores the fact the enemy waged a guerrilla war dependent on hit-and-run tactics designed to avoid US overwhelming fire superiority. Proponents of this myth rely on the antiquated yardsticks of conventional war theory as their crutch; i.e., whoever holds the ground when the shooting stops is the victor. But viewed in the light of the actual tactics employed there, it is fair to say the Americans lost many battles.

While it is true that US troops held the ground at the close of most battles, the enemy ordinarily chose the moment of disengagement after exhausting any strategic importance the site may have held. And, more often than not, the battlefield was abandoned by the Americans within hours of the enemy's withdrawal. The enemy almost always surrendered territory as soon as it had exploited its full potential for punishing, embarrassing and frustrating US troops. In Vietnam, Victory might best be measured by whether a force achieved its objectives in any given operation. On those terms, the NVA/VC may have succeeded much more often than the Americans; consider the fact that 85% of all contacts were initiated by the enemy. Even measured in conventional terms, the Americans lost a significant number of battles. The first major engagement of the war in the valley of the Ia Drang River, November 1965, involved a staggering defeat at clearing called LZ Albany. There, an entire US battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division (2d/7th Cav) was virtually annihilated when it stumbled into an NVA regiment. Of 400 men in the US unit, some 155 were killed and 121 wounded in just a few short hours of combat. Victory was certainly not on the lips of any American lucky enough to survive that conflagration. Other battalion sized losses were suffered by the Marines in 1966/67 near the DMZ. On July 2, 1967, during Operation Buffalo two companies of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines were ambushed by an NVA regiment. Only a single platoon of the eight engaged survived to tell the tale. It is unlikely many of those few men considered themselves victors. Company and platoon sized losses were quite common throughout the war, and since most of the war was fought at the company and platoon level, it seems fair to say the enemy won its fair share of battles. It is also true that more than a few heavily defended US firebases were overrun and left smoldering by sharp enemy strikes lasting only a few hours. In those attacks, the NVA/VC often succeeded totally in their objective.

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 links below that will take you to THE current bulletins so that you might look them over. The below bulletins are dated November 15th and December 1st, 2012.

<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20121115%20PDF%20Edition.pdf>

<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20121201%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."

The Final Roll Call



The following Marines/Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last issue of 'The Scuttlebutt' was published.

[Means, Lance Cpl. Dale W.](#)

Jordan, MN

[Monahan, Cpl. Christopher](#)

Island Heights, NJ

[Denier, Lance Cpl. Anthony J.](#)

Mechanicville, NY

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

Quotes about Marines

Gone to Florida to fight the Indians. Will be back when the war is over.

Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson, USMC
in a note pinned to his office door, 1836

LINKS TO CHECK OUT

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/2004189128001/>



-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --