

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

July 2011 Edition



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*SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III*

*Detachment # 115*

*Salisbury, MD*

*Original Charter Date May 10, 1970*

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2011 - 2012

*Commandant: Andy Bouma*

Senior Vice Commandant: Bob Miller

Junior Past Commandant: Jim Siegel

Paymaster: Jim Siegel

Sgt-At-Arms: Walt Cohee

Junior Vice Commandant: Ed Elder

Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway

Adjutant: Richard Hyson

Chaplain: Jim Siegel

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

### MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. However, there will be no meeting in August due to the scheduled Annual Detachment Picnic which will be held on August 6 (Rain date will be August 13. An abbreviated meeting will be held the day of the picnic so make every effort to attend.

#### Important August Dates

August 8, 2011



#### "Calendar of Events"

July 31, 2011/August 6, 2011: 88th National Marine Corps League convention is to be held in Boise, Idaho. Full information is not available;

however hotel reservations can be made and the sooner the better if you even think you will be attending as the main hotel normally fills up quickly. You can always cancel your reservations

if need be. Room rates are \$86.00 per night plus taxes. For reservations call (208) 343-1871 and go

to <http://www.boiseriverside.doubletree.com> for more information on the hotel. BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS WITH THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

August 6, 2011: The detachments annual picnic will be held on this date with a rain date of August 13, 2011. An abbreviated meeting will be held at the picnic in lieu of the normal monthly meeting. The picnic will take place Saturday, 06 August, at the home of Ralph Capen and his lovely wife Alane; remember, there is a pool. The festivities

will start at 1500 (3:00 pm) and end at 2000 (8:00 pm). All you have to do to attend is three things: 1- Bring a covered dish, 2- RSVP (see below), and 3- Bring some sea stories (that we have not heard before).

Beverages (hard libations, soda, etc.) will be provided. If you want something exotic please bring that yourself (I am talking about drinks); this would include beer. There will be grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, and chicken.

Please RSVP @ [410-749-2057](tel:410-749-2057) (h) or [410-845-9127](tel:410-845-9127) (c) (Jeanne & Walt) with the number of guests by 30 July.

We look forward to seeing you all there.  
Semper Fidelis.

**Directions:**

Turn onto Nanticoke from Rt 50  
From Nanticoke Road, turn on to Patriot Drive.  
Follow as it bears around to the left.  
Stay to the right as you pass Governors Sq.  
Stay to the left as you pass Cobblestone Ct.  
Stay to the right as you pass Centennial Dr.  
Follow as it bears around to the left - we're the third on the left after Centennial Dr.  
27215 Patriot Dr. [410-546-8290](tel:410-546-8290) (hm), [410-430-1344](tel:410-430-1344) (Ralph's cell)  
If you get to Barwick Dr. or where Patriot Dr. divides, you've gone too far.

**"Sick or in Distress"**

MCL Members Ed MIHALIK, Louis SLOWIK, Ralph SMITH and 'Missy' HYSON wife of our Adjutant Richard HYSON is having or has 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)

**AUGUST "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"**

4th David MILLS  
8<sup>th</sup> Charles SANDS  
30th Don ELSEROAD

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

4th Barb & Carl EBAUGH (21 yrs)  
11th Tara & Danny PARSONS (16 yrs)  
19th Barbara & George "Buddy" MURRAY (56 yrs)  
22nd Alane & Ralph CAPEN (13 yrs)  
26th Jeannie & Paul WARD (49 yrs)

**AUGUST MCL ANNIVERSARIES**

Walter COHEE, Jr. (8 yrs)  
Robert HORTIE, Sr. (8 yrs)

**WELCOME ABOARD**

None

**MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED**

None

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN AUGUST**

Robert HORTIE, Sr.

**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE**

Please send your \$22.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster  
Jim Siegel, Paymaster  
30245 Southampton Bridge Rd  
Salisbury, MD 21804-2475

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**

**Life Membership Dues**

AGE GROUP	AS OF 01/01/2009
0 - 35	\$500
36 - 50	\$400
51 - 60	\$300
61 - Over	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.



The Spring Edition of the Woof-O-Gram can be viewed on the following link.

<http://moddkennel.org/portals/11/Woof-O-Gram/Woof-O-Gram%20Spring%202011%20Complete.pdf>

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The 2011 edition of *Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors* is available on-line @ [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

However, I don't recommend trying to print out a hard copy seeing how it is 135 pages. You can get a hard copy from the VA or you can just bookmark the above link and bring it up as needed.

#### RAO BULLETINS

Each month your editor attempts to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters and I will continue to do so. 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 link below that will take you to ALL current bulletins so that you might look them over. These bulletins are up-dated on or about the 1st and 15th of each month.

[http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)

#### Attention: Maryland Active Duty and Reserve Component Veterans



The Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation provides assistance to post 9/11 Active Duty and Reserve Component Veterans not available from private and public sector entities. The foundation validates need for assistance and serves as a "clearing house", coordinating

assistance with federal, state and local community organizations. For more information, visit them on the web at <http://www.mgbc-md.org>

#### In case you missed this Be faithful to the Marines

By Lt. Gen. John Castellaw, United States Marine Corps (ret) 06/20/11 06:44 PM ET

Not long after Gen. Jim Amos was announced as the next commandant of the Marine Corps, a past commandant advised, "*Get your 'on bended knee' speech ready,*" meaning Marines were in for another fight to defend their roles, missions and their budget.

In spite of fame from the Pacific Islands campaigns, unification battles following World War II threatened the Marines' role and even their existence. Marines fought back, and, in a seminal event, Commandant Alexander Vandegrift of Guadalcanal appealed directly to Congress with a speech that included the following: "The bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps. If the Marine as a fighting man has not made a case for himself after 170 years of service he must go. But I think you will agree with me that he has earned the right to depart with dignity and honor, not by subjugation to the status of uselessness and servility planned for him by the War Department."

Marines, after a hard fight, prevailed, and their structure and missions were enshrined in congressional legislation, preventing the "War Department," soon to be the Department of Defense (DOD), from turning the Marines into the Navy's police force as President Truman had desired.

Today, even after war-changing victories in Iraq's Anbar Province and the turning of the tide in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, the future of the Marines is again in doubt as defense drawdown's loom.

Victories fade and the critical need to address the deficit is generating calls from across the political spectrum for cuts in the Defense budget. Panels and defense pundits have called for reduction or elimination of key Marine programs such as the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV), F-35B, V-22 and ships that support the Marine's amphibious assault mission. Along with the program cuts come proposals to roll back end strength and reduce military benefits.

The EFV has been canceled, the F-35B is on probation and the V-22, in spite of its sterling

combat and safety record since going to war in 2007, is continually threatened with termination. The Navy, with troubles of its own and supported by defense experts who believe, like Omar Bradley before Inchon, that another amphibious landing will never occur, is resisting building the 38 amphibious ships the Marines need.

Despite these threats to equipment, potential cuts to personnel programs could do the most harm. People are expensive, and it is easy to reduce numbers to generate savings. People are approximately half the military's budget when you consider enlistment bonuses, pay, quality of life programs, retirement benefits and healthcare; for the Marines it is 60 percent. And, unlike the V-22 or EFV, there are few lobbying groups for people.

With cuts unavoidable, there must be a real debate on the future roles of the military with everyone at the table. We are coming out of Iraq and Afghanistan with statements of "we are not going to do this again" abounding. And for the first time we are considering reducing defense spending on the base budget, not because of a decrease in the threats to our nation, but to address the deficit.

We tend to forget that our enemies have a say. Non-state extremist cells continue to plot massive attacks, peer competitors are rising and our addiction to oil requires military capabilities to ensure the flow continues. The world is not becoming any safer, and we must shape our military correctly to ensure our security.

The Marines will not make their case for continued relevance "on bended knee" but on their value. With only 8.5 percent of the DOD budget, Marines provide 31 percent of ground combat forces, 12 percent of fixed-wing attack aircraft, and 19 percent of attack helicopters, giving, literally, the most bang for the buck. However, the most compelling reason for continuing a capable Marine Corps remains the American people. They want their Spartans. The warrior ethos of "everyman a rifleman" continues to resonant along with the belief that Marines' ability to adapt to any mission and get to the gunfight fast provides the nation with its most flexible combat force.

*Castellaw retired as a lieutenant general after a 36-year career in the United States Marine Corps. His last assignments on active duty were in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and the Marine Corps budget creation and execution. He is a member for the Consensus for American*

*Security.*

## IWO JIMA

On March 26th, 1945, Iwo Jima was declared "secured". The Marines handed the island over to the Army so the Army Air Corps could use the air fields. Then many of the Marines sailed off to another party on Okinawa.

February 19th was the start of the invasion of Iwo. That seems so long ago. But for the Marines and sailors who assaulted Iwo, every one of the 36 continuous days of that battle seemed nearly that long.

About 77,000 US Marines from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions converged on tiny Iwo Jima in late February. LtGen Tadamichi Kuribayashi had fortified Iwo for a full year before the invasion, and had an estimated 22,000 troops dug in under the island. US forces began bombing Iwo in June 1944, 8 full months before the invasion. Naval bombardments then shelled the island mercilessly around the clock for four consecutive days prior to the invasion.

Iwo set a number of "firsts":

It was the longest concentrated bombardment of any target in the history of mankind up to that date.

It was the largest total tonnage of bombs and artillery ever delivered on a single target to that date.

It was the largest armada of ships ever assembled for an invasion up to that date (about 700 ships).

It was the largest number of invaders to ever invade any island up to that date (each of those new records was broken by the invasion of Okinawa in April 1945).

It was the first (and last) time Seabees accompanied Marines in the first waves of a beach invasion (they swore they'd never do THAT again!).

It was the first and last time any Marine unit landed on D-Day and served an entire campaign without being relieved by another unit.

And it was the only time in Marine Corps history when the number of invading casualties exceeded the number of defending casualties. More than 19,000 Marines were wounded on Iwo, and 6,821 died there. As such, it remains the costliest battle in Marine Corps history.

Now get this: one-third of all Marines killed during WWII, died on Iwo Jima.

Let me repeat that: ONE THIRD of all US Marines killed during WWII, died on Iwo Jima.

All but about 200 Japanese defenders died on Iwo.

Marine LtGen Harry Schmidt and LtGen H. M. Smith led Task Force 56. It made up V Corps, composed of the 3rd MarDiv (MGen Erskine), 4th MarDiv (MGen Clifton Cates) and 5th MarDiv (MGen Rockey). The 5th Division had been formed expressly for the battle of Iwo Jima. It was disbanded following the battle.

Among the participants were names of distinction:

- Son of the sitting Commandant LtCol AA Vandergriff Jr (3/24)
- Future Commandant 1stLt Robert E Cushman, Jr (2/9)
- Future Commandant Clifton Cates (CG 4thMarDiv)
- Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal
- LtGen "Howlin' Mad" Smith
- And the first enlisted Marine Medal of Honor recipient of WWII,

"Manila John" Basilone. Basilone had received his MOH from Chesty Puller, for action on Guadalcanal. He was KIA on Iwo on D-Day. The invasion planners felt confident the battle would take 7-10 days. It took 36. LtGen Kuribayashi's body has never been found.

The final two Japanese defenders surrendered 4 years after the battle. In January of 1949 two Japanese soldiers surrendered themselves to the occupying US Army garrison on Iwo. They had hidden in the 11 miles of tunnels and bunkers under Iwo, successfully raiding the Army supplies for food and water at night. They had found a Stars and Stripes newspaper which showed pictures of GIs celebrating New Year's Eve in downtown Tokyo, 1948-49, and knew Japan had lost the war.

They reported in full uniforms, well fed, and surrendered clean, fully-functional weapons.

Iwo Jima stands as an icon for every Marine who has earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor since 1945. The men who fought there are true heroes to our nation and our Corps. We can never thank them enough for what they went through for us on that small patch of hell.

I've stopped often today and thought about them.

THANK YOU, Marines. Because of what you did, I grew up a safe healthy kid in comfort and freedom during the 1950s and 60s, speaking English instead of Japanese.

I'll never forget what they gave for this nation and for our Corps. They remain my personal heroes.

Semper Fidelis.

### EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

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

[Richard, Cpl. Matthew T.](#)  
Acadia, LA

[O'Connor, Lance Cpl. Sean](#)  
[M.N.](#)

Douglas, WY

[O'Brien, Lance Cpl.](#)

[Nicholas S.](#)

Stanley, NC

[McDaniels, Lance Cpl.](#)

[Joshua B.](#)

Dublin, OH

[Hill, Lance Cpl. Jason D.](#)

Poway, CA

[Bradley, Sgt. Mark A.](#)

Cuba

[Ibarra, Pfc. Josue](#)

Midland, TX

[Verbeek, Lance Cpl. Jared](#)

[C.](#)

Visalia, CA

[Singh, Cpl. Gurpreet](#)

Antelope, CA

[Myrie, Sgt. Marlon E.](#)

Oakland Park, FL

[Pate, Gunnery Sgt. Ralph E.](#)

Mullins

Nolen, Cpl. Michael C.  
Spring Valley, WI  
Farias, Lance Cpl. John F.  
New Braunfels, TX  
Goyet, Lance Cpl. Mark R.  
Sinton, TX  
Schneider, Cpl. Kyle R.  
Phoenix, AZ  
Frokjer, Sgt. Chad D.  
Maplewood, MN  
Dodds Dudley, Staff Sgt.  
Thomas J.  
Tega Cay, SC  
Mendez Hernandez, Lance  
Cpl. Norberto  
Logan, UT

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](mailto: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

**Quote About The Marines**

*The Marines I have seen around the  
world have the cleanest bodies, the  
filthiest minds, the highest morale,  
and the lowest morals of any group  
of animals I have ever seen. Thank  
God for the United States Marine  
Corps!*

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United  
States, 1945

Links to check out

<http://www.objflicks.com/decadeofthe1940s.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/v/ervamPt4Ha0&autoplay=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASETse4oNII&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIo3ZfA9da0&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wEI2NcoBE>  
M

**Semper Ji**

*and good night "Chesty" wherever  
you are*



-- Once a Marine, Always a  
Marine --