

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

July 2014 Edition



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

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2014 - 2015

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: Rhuel Goslee

Web Sergeant: Don Elseroad

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on August 13th, 2014 at 1900 (7:00 P.M.) at the American Legion Post 64, 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, MD 21801. However, the August meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual SSgt Cohee Detachment picnic that will be held on August 16, 2014, at 1700 (5:00 P.M. for civilians) at Ralph and Alane Capen's home, 27215 Patriot Drive, Salisbury, Md. Telephone [410-546-8290](tel:410-546-8290).

Hot Dogs, hamburgers, chicken, water, rolls etc., will be provided. Bring your own sodas and beer and your favorite dish to share. Dishes will be judged and the winner will be admitted free with a front row seat at the monthly meeting on September 10th.

Please make every effort to attend.

Important Upcoming Dates & Events

2015 Marine Corps League Mid-Winter National Staff Conference will be held February 12, 13 and 14 with meetings on the 13th and 14th. It will again be held at the [Fairview Park Marriott](#) in Falls Church, VA. Room rate for single or double rooms is \$99.00 + TAX per night.

Reservation should be made directly to the [Fairview Park Marriott](#) no later than January 20, 2014 by calling (703) 849-9400 or (800)228-2900. Request a "Marine Corps League Winter Conference" room. If booking online - use the code "MCRMCR" in the "Group Code" field.

Conference information is now available on the following link: http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/pdf/Mid-Winter_Schedule_Reg_2014.pdf

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Walt COHEE, Jimmy Lee HOWARD, and Tom CORCORAN 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>AUGUST "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 4th David MILLS 8 th Charles SANDS 30th Don ELSEROAD	<u>AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES</u> 4th Barb & Carl EBAUGH (23 yrs) 11th Tara & Danny PARSONS (18 yrs) 19th Barbara & George "Buddy" MURRAY (58 yrs) 22nd Alane & Ralph CAPEN (15 yrs) 26th Jeannie & Paul WARD (51 yrs)
<u>AUGUST MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Walter COHEE, Jr. (10 yrs) Robert HORTIE, Sr. (10 yrs)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u> <u>AUGUST</u> Robert HORTIE, Sr.
<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 \$24.00 checks made payable to "MCL Det 115" to our paymaster.

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



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

Betrayal in Benghazi

Phil "Hands" Handley Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

The combat code of the US Military is that we don't abandon our dead or wounded on the battlefield. In US Air Force lingo, fighter pilots don't run off and leave their wingmen. If one of our own is shot down, still alive and not yet in enemy captivity, we will either come to get him or die trying.

Among America's fighting forces, the calm, sure knowledge that such an irrevocable bond exists is priceless. Along with individual faith and personal grit, it is a sacred trust that has often sustained hope in the face of terribly long odds.

The disgraceful abandonment of our Ambassador and those brave ex-SEAL's who fought to their deaths to save others in that compound is nothing short of dereliction-of-duty.

Additionally, the patently absurd cover-up scenario that was fabricated in the aftermath was an outright lie in an attempt to shield the President and the Secretary of State from responsibility.

It has been over eight months since the attack on our compound in Benghazi . The White House strategy, with the aid of a "lap dog" press has been to run out the clock before the truth is forthcoming.

The recent testimonies of the three "whistle blowers" have reopened the subject and hopefully will lead to exposure and disgrace of those responsible for this embarrassing debacle. It would appear that the most recent firewall which the Administration is counting on is the contention "that there were simply no military assets that could be brought to bear in time to make a difference" mainly due to the unavailability of tanker support for fighter aircraft.

This is simply Bull Shit, regardless how many supposed "experts" the Administration trot out to make such an assertion.

The bottom line is that even if the closest asset capable of response was half-way around the world, you don't just sit on your penguin ass and do nothing.

The fact is that the closest asset was not half-way around the world, but as near as Aviano Air Base, Italy where two squadrons of F-16Cs are based.

Consider the following scenario (all times Benghazi local): When Hicks in Tripoli receives a call at 9:40 PM from Ambassador Stevens informing him "Greg, we are under attack!"(His last words), Hicks immediately notifies all agencies and prepares for the immediate initiation of an existing "Emergency Response Plan."

At AFRICON, General Carter Ham attempts to mount a rescue effort, but is told to "stand down". By 10:30 PM an unarmed drone is overhead the compound and streaming live feed to various "Command and Control Agencies" so everyone watching that feed knew damn well what was going on.

At 11:30 PM Woods, Doherty and five others leave Tripoli, arriving in Benghazi at 1:30 AM on Wednesday morning, where they hold off the attacking mob from the roof of the compound until they are killed by a mortar direct hit at 4:00 AM.

So nothing could have been done, eh? Nonsense. If one assumes that tanker support really "was not available" what about this:

When at 10:00 PM AFRICON alerts the 31st TFW Command Post in Aviano Air Base, Italy of the attack, the Wing Commander Orders preparation for the launch of two F-16s and advises the Command Post at NAS Sigonella to prepare for hot pit refueling and quick turn of the jets.

By 11:30 PM, two F-16Cs with drop tanks and each armed with five hundred 20 MM rounds are airborne. Flying at 0.92 mach they will cover the 522 nautical miles directly to NAS Sigonella in 1.08 hours. While in-route, the flight lead is informed of the tactical situation, rules of engagement, and radio frequencies to use.

The jets depart Sigonella at 1:10 AM with full fuel load and cover the 377 nautical miles directly to Benghazi in 0.8 hours, arriving at 1:50 AM which would be 20 minutes after the arrival of Woods, Doherty and their team.

Providing that the two F-16s initial pass over the mob, in full afterburner at 200 feet and 550 knots did not stop the attack in its tracks, a few well-placed strafing runs on targets of opportunity would assuredly do the trick.

Were the F-16s fuel state insufficient to return to Sigonelli after jettisoning their external drop tanks, they could easily do so at Tripoli International Airport, only one-half hour away.

As for those hand-wringing naysayers who would worry about IFR clearances, border crossing authority, collateral damage, landing rights, political correctness and dozens of other reasons not to act -- screw them. It is time our "leadership" gets its priorities straight and put America's interests first.

The end result would be that Woods and Doherty would be alive. Dozens in the attacking rabble would be rendezvousing with "72 virgins" and a clear message would have been sent to the next worthless P.O.S. terrorist contemplating an attack on Americans that it is not really a good idea to "tug" on Superman's cape.

Of course all this depends upon a Commander In Chief more concerned with saving the lives of those he put in harm's way than getting his crew rested for a campaign fund raising event in Las Vegas the next day. It also depends upon a Secretary of State who actually understood "What difference did it make?", and a Secretary of Defense who was watching the feed from the drone and understood what the attack consisted of instead of making an immediate response that "One of the military tenants is that you don't commit assets until you fully understand the tactical situation."

YGBSM! (You Gotta Be Shittin' Me)

Ultimately it comes down to the question of who gave that order to stand down? Whoever that coward turns out to be should be exposed, removed from office, and face criminal charges for dereliction of duty. The combat forces of the United States of America deserve leadership that really does "have their back" when the chips are down.

General John Kelly's mission to defend Marines: 'I'll never stop'

One of the military's most respected leaders has taken aim at an amorphous chattering class within the Pentagon and beyond who've questioned the mettle of today's Marines.

Using impassioned oration and drawing on raw personal experience, Marine Corps General John Kelly is leveraging his clout as a Gold Star dad and the head of U.S. Southern Command to strike back at those who would suggest Iraq and Afghanistan veterans somehow don't meet the measure of previous generations. To the contrary, Kelly argues, today's troops will do anything we ask if well led and they are confident we have their backs.

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It's become a mission, the general told Marine Corps Times, one fueled by the loss of his Marine son more than three years ago in Afghanistan; the obligation he feels to comfort and reassure others who've also lost friends or loved ones; and a firm desire to mute the criticism he's heard directed at so-called millennial's, a loose title assigned to those born during the 1980s and 90s. Such disparagement is not only unwarranted, Kelly said, it's utterly baseless.

I can't count the number of times that I saw them in firefights, in Fallujah and Ramadi and other places, and I would just stand there in wonderment, thinking to myself: "There's absolutely no reason on this earth why any human being would do what they're doing," Kelly said. Every human being naturally would want to protect themselves, crawl in a hole, get down. And they don't. That's how Iwo Jima was taken. Guadalcanal. The Chosin Reservoir. If the Marines today are doing exactly the same thing their dads did in Vietnam, and their granddads did in Korea and World War II, then how in the hell can we say that they're not as good?

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Kelly is a career infantry Marine who left the Corps as an enlisted sergeant in 1972 before attending college and earning his commission. He's as salty as they come, a holdover, no doubt, from his bare-knuckled upbringing in Boston and unafraid of speaking out, especially when it means sticking up for the rank and file.

A case in point: Last year, the four-star showed up at a legal hearing for a Marine captain the Corps sought to discipline over an immature video made by several enlisted men in his unit. **While testifying as a character witness**, Kelly said the young captain's treatment was heavy-handed and that he was owed an apology.

As a one- and two-star general, Kelly spent about three years leading combat troops in Iraq's Anbar province, where some of the war's most explosive fighting raged. In 2011, as the senior military adviser to then Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Kelly spent time in Afghanistan, including one noteworthy stop at Forward Operating Base Jackson in volatile Sangin district, where only four months earlier his son, 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed by an enemy IED.

At Jackson, Gates ate lunch with a small group of noncommissioned officers, some of them from Robert Kelly's platoon with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. The secretary asked the men whether he could do anything for them, Kelly recalled.

No response.

He again asked, emphasizing the fact that as the Secretary of Defense he could do just about anything for them, Kelly said. Again a long silence, and then a scruffy Marine, with a recent buzz cut, who smelled like a goat as he was living in a FOB ... on the edge of the empire, stood up. He nervously shifted his weight and then, looking directly at the boss, said "don't let them forget what we did here, sir. Another stood up and said "and don't let them ever forget the ones we are leaving behind."

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It's these profound experiences, coupled with his childhood memories of neighborhood men reliving past wars that shaped Kelly's thinking about the character of today's Marines. His most recent speeches,

delivered in May in New York City and Boston, refute the notion that Marines are war weary after 13 years of continuous conflict. Men and women like us, Kelly boomed, never, ever grow weary of serving our nation.

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As he has in previous speeches, Kelly evoked the story of two Navy Cross recipients, Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter and Cpl. Jonathan Yale. **Their tale of selflessness** is well known throughout the Corps. On April 22, 2008, when a truck loaded with explosives barreled toward their post in Ramadi, they opened fire, causing the truck to blow up before it could enter a compound housing U.S. and Iraqi troops. Haerter and Yale were killed. Everyone inside was saved.

You can't convince a person to do that unless they're very, very special, Kelly said. Those two heroes knew they were going to die there's no doubt in my mind and they stood there blasting away until they went to God. So anyone who tells me that Marines today aren't as good is full of shit.

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His speech in New York addresses such extraordinary sacrifice. The willingness to risk all for a cause greater than oneself is almost lost upon American society, Kelly said.

He speaks with a father's affection of America's 1 percent who espouses the same traits and beliefs as those who came before them. And in the same breath, Kelly lays waste to the notion that the troops and their families should be viewed as victims, and hammers the uninitiated who think themselves so superior as to speak for us.

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To all those who for their own reasons dare to so patronizingly speak for us, he said in New York, calling us victims and weary, but have never walked in our shoes, or stood by a flag-draped casket holding someone so precious, you can all go straight to hell speak for ourselves.

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Generals are expected to speak truth to power. It's rare, however, for one to air his frustrations. Pressed to more clearly define those in the chattering class whom his speeches assail, Kelly edits his response diplomatically.

The Defense Department faces endless challenges, he said. Leaders are under extreme pressure to mitigate any negative publicity that can emanate from acts of misbehavior in the ranks, and they deserve great credit for weathering the storm. In particular, he added, the service chiefs, who I think as a group is heroic in their efforts to lead their services during this very, very difficult time.

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Kelly was to deliver another speech May 26, Memorial Day, in Miami.

They need to hear this, he said. I'll never stop. •

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 link below that will take you to the current bulletin so that you might look it over. The below bulletin is dated July 1st, 2014 and needs to view before July 15th or the link will no longer work.

<http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20140701-PDF-Edition.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 and/or Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last Newsletter

Staff Sgt. David H. Stewart
Stafford, VA

Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Garabrant
Peterborough, NH

Lance Cpl. Adam F. Wolff
Cedar Rapids, IA

Sgt. Thomas Z. Spitzer
New Braunfels, TX

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

LINKS TO CHECK

Many of you if not all skip over these links. If you do you are missing out on some good stuff.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=pjwAOg33BVk

<http://stg.do/OdOg>

http://www.youtube.com/embed/c_VGxfrmDmEo

God Bless America

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --