

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

July 2015 Edition



Don Elseroad, Editor
355 Beaverview Drive
Bristol, VA 24201-1880
276-645-0482
53usmc73@bvunet.net



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

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2015 - 2016

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

Junior Vice Commandant: Gene Powell
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 always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on August 12th, 2015 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.

Upcoming Holiday's & Events

2015 MCL National Convention will be held August 9th through the 15th, 2015 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, Arizona 85253. Room rate is 94 dollars plus room tax. Phone 480-948-5000. More information on the Scottsdale Plaza Resort is available on the following link: <http://www.scottsdaleplaza.com/> As of 10/19/2014, the Scottsdale Plaza Resort is completely sold out. Overflow hotel information can be viewed on the following link: http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/pdf/2015_Convention-Additional_Accommodations.pdf

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Jimmy Lee & Gloria HOWARD, Jeanne COHEE 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)

AUGUST "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"

4th David MILLS
8th Charles SANDS
27th Daniel HUNTINGTON
30th Don ELSEROD

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4th Barb & Carl EBAUGH (24 yrs)
11th Tara & Danny PARSONS (19 yrs)
19th Barbara & George "Buddy" MURRAY (59 yrs)
22nd Alane & Ralph CAPEN (16 yrs)
26th Jeannie & Paul WARD (52 yrs)

<u>AUGUST MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Walter COHEE, Jr. (11 yrs)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u> <u>AUGUST</u> None
<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
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**DON'T DELAY...JOIN TODAY
THEN CONSIDER GOING 'LIFE'
NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT**

Marine Corps resurrects name of legendary elite units

The Army has the Green Berets, while the Navy is known for the SEALs. Now, an elite branch of the U.S. Marine Corps will officially be known as Raiders.

The Marines will rename several special operations units as Marine Raiders at a ceremony on Friday June 19th, resurrecting a moniker made famous by World War II units that carried out risky amphibious and guerrilla operations. The exploits of the original Marine Raiders — who pioneered tactics used by present-day special forces — were captured in books and movies including "Gung Ho!" in 1943 and "Marine Raiders" in 1944.

The name will give a unique identity to the Marines' branch of U.S. Special Operations Command, which includes Special Forces from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The Marines' Special Operations Command, known as MARSOC, was formed more than a decade ago as part of the global fight against terrorism.

"Whereas most people in the American public probably wouldn't have been able to tell you what MARSOC stood for, 'Raider' will jump off the page," said Ben Connable, a military and intelligence analyst at the nonprofit research agency RAND Corporation.

After Friday, the formal names of eight units comprising some 2,700 Marines will include "Marine Raider." Representatives from the units will gather in formation with their commanders to unveil their new battle colors while renaming citations are read.

In a news release, the Marine Corps said the renaming will give commanders a shorthand way to refer to special operations Marines, similar to the labels "Green Beret" or "SEAL," in what it called "an official identity."

Connable, the military analyst said special operations Marines carry out raids on insurgents or terrorists, conduct deep reconnaissance and train foreign military — similar to their special operations counterparts in other branches.

Marines in MARSOC must pass a selection process that includes grueling swims and hikes, as well as specialized combat training.

Some Marines have worn the Raider emblems unofficially since 2003 when the branch's first present-day special operations unit was activated for a deployment to Iraq.

Connable said the resurrection of the Raider name was a positive move because it will tie a group set apart from the rest of the branch into the history of some of the most famous Marines. He said MARSOC wasn't initially popular with some Marines because of the branch's famous "esprit de corps" that includes pride in the group and the concept that all members are elite to begin with.

"The whole idea of 'special Marines' is unpalatable to Marines in general," said Connable, a retired Marine officer.

During World War II, the Raiders were organized in response to President Franklin Roosevelt's desire to have a commando-style force that could conduct amphibious raids and operate behind enemy lines. Raider commanders studied unconventional warfare tactics, including Chinese guerrillas, and were given their pick of men and equipment, according to Marine historians.

Raider units were credited with beating larger Japanese forces on difficult terrain in the Pacific and they participated in key battles including Guadalcanal and Bougainville. They were disbanded toward the end of the war and the Raider name hasn't been used in an official capacity since, said Capt. Barry Morris, a U.S. Marines spokesman.

"What the name 'Raider' does, it harkens back to the legacy that the Marine Corps has latched onto and has drawn a lot from, both in an esoteric and practical sense," Connable said. "It is a remarkable legacy."

MARINE CORPS LEADERSHIP

Secretary of the Navy



Hon. Ray Mabus
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[Official Photo](#)
[Website](#)

Commandant
of the Marine Corps



Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
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Assistant Commandant
of the Marine Corps



Gen. John M. Paxton, Jr.
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Sergeant Major
of the Marine Corps



Sgt. Maj. Ronald L.
Green
[Biography](#)
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FLYING WITH THE ANGELS

MITCHELL NORTHAM STAFF WRITER DAILY TIMES

When representatives from the Ocean City Maryland Air Show reached out to Jeff Merritt a few months ago about riding along in a U.S. Navy Blue Angels jet, he couldn't contain his excitement.

“I jumped at the chance,” said Merritt, a 56-yearold Salisbury resident. “This is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

On Tuesday at NASA’s Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Merritt was one of three VIP guests taken on a 45-minute ride by the No. 7 Blue Angels jet — an F/A-18 Hornet – flown by Cpt. Jeff Kuss. Kuss is an experienced pilot with over 1,500 hours logged flying for the Blue Angels and took Merritt and the other riders through the twist and turns of several maneuvers that the Blue Angels incorporate into their routine.

“It didn’t have air conditioning, but it felt good,” Merritt said after the flight. “It was really amazing. What (the pilots) do every day is unbelievable. I’ve never experienced anything like it.”

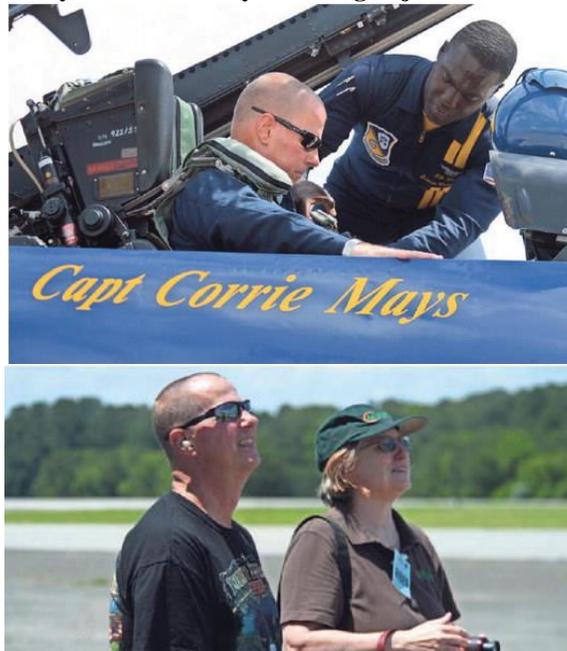
Along with Merritt, the Blue Angels took Brandy Sherrer of Baltimore and Emily Lampa of Salisbury TV station — WMDT 47 — for rides as well. Sherrer is the Director of Executive Events and Hospitality for Under Armour and took the first ride of the day with Merritt and Lampa flying after her.

“The best part is the rolls when you can see the smoke behind you. That was epic,” Sherrer said. “The only bad part is that it’s really hot up there. You will sweat.”

Aside from the other two guests, this flight held a different meaning for Merritt. Through their organization Operation We Care, Merritt and his wife Diana work with people in the U.S. military every day.

Blue Angels No. 7 jet crew chief Eli Lang fastens the seat belt for Jeff Merritt of Salisbury before he takes a VIP flight Friday at the Wallops Flight Facility Airfield. Merritt, founder of Operation We Care, was invited to take the flight with pilot Jeff Kuss, a U.S. Marine Corps captain.

Jeff and Diana Merritt of Salisbury watch the Navy Blue Angels jet take off Friday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MALISSA WATTERSON

“Actually we just sent about 100 packages to four different ships,” Merritt said. “So we have some connection with the Navy. But we’re happy to support all of our military.”

Since 2007, the Merritt’s and their group has collected, sorted and packed donated items to send care packages to U.S. troops. The project continues to grow with the support of many people, local businesses and civic organizations on Delmarva.

When the OC Air Show called Merritt and presented him with the opportunity, he was willing to jump through any hoop he had to so he could fly with the Navy.

“We actually went on diets when he found out, just so he would be comfortable in the jet,” his wife Diana Merritt said. “He lost about 30 pounds. He’s been excited ever since he heard about it.”

Merritt also had to have clearance from a doctor, who cleared him only on one condition, he says. “I went to the doctor and told him what I was going to and he signed off, but before he gave me the form back he says, ‘I want the video.’ I told him I would have to edit it first,” Merritt said with a laugh.

On Tuesday morning, Merritt was instructed to eat a light breakfast prior to his flight. “They told me not to go to an all-you-can-eat,” he said.

Once in Wallops, Merritt received more tips and instruction from the No. 7’s crew chief, Eli Lang – a First Class Petty Officer with the U.S. Navy. “Just have fun and keep your energy up,” he said. “That’s the best advice I can give.”

With the jets being able to travel up to 1,400 miles per hour, Merritt was concerned about feeling the effects of a G-Shock which can cause loss of vision and consciousness.

“That just means you need to squeeze harder,” Lang said after teaching Merritt and the others how to brace themselves for the maneuvers.

Merritt didn’t experience any unconsciousness, but did hit his head on the canopy when Kuss flipped the jet over once. When Merritt landed from his flight, Kuss and Lang presented him with a personalized lithograph from the Blue Angels that showed their team flying over the Pearl Harbor memorial in Hawaii.

Merritt enjoyed the flight and said he would “absolutely” do it again. But more than anything, he considered it a privilege to fly with the Blue Angels.

“It was an honor,” Merritt said. “I’d like to thank the Ocean City Air Show and the Blue Angels for allowing me to do this. It was a beautiful way to see the country. “I don’t get excited about a whole lot, but this was different.”

Captain Jeff Kuss of the U.S. Marine Corps, right, presents Jeff Merritt of Salisbury with a commemorative lithograph Friday at the Wallops Flight Facility Airfield.



STAFF PHOTO BY MALISSA WATTERSON

Editor’s note: For those of you that do not recognize the name Jeff Merritt, he and his wife Diana have been highly respected and hardworking members of our Marine Corps League Detachment since 2010.

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, 2015 and needs to view before July 15th or the link will no longer work.

<http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20150701%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 following Marines and/or Corpsman paid the ultimate sacrifice for God, Country and Corps since the last Newsletter

NONE

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@bvn.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.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

http://blog.theveteranssite.com/alzheimers-veteran-remembers/?utm_source=content&utm_medium=vet-ctg&utm_content=slide-1&utm_source=vet&utm_campaign=Ad%20-%20468x250news-slidesalzheimeraveteranjanuary-2015vet&utm_medium=house&utm_content=2015-01/468x250newsslid_150112063342.jpg

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-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



38650 Sussex Highway
Stateline Plaza Unit 7
Delmar, DE 19940
Office 302-846-3424
Fax 855-801-9423
roger.martinson@edwardjones.com
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