

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

June 2013 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

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: 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 will be held on July 10th, 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



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, 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>JULY "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u>	<u>JULY ANNIVERSARIES</u>
1st Cindy GRIFFIN 1st Terry HERLING 2nd Donna JONES 2nd John ROBINSON 7th Ed MIHALIK 12th Fran HEARTHWAY 13th 'Josh' KELLEY 16th Richard CARRILLO 17th Madeline PARSONS 18th 'Doc' BRENNER 23rd Bill MARSICH 27th Tara CARRILLO 28th Joseph BACHTLER 28th Leslye BRENNER	5th Cecelia & Jim SIEGEL (38 yrs) 8th Fran & Ed HEARTHWAY (7 yrs) 9th Donna & Louis JONES (39 yrs) 11 th Tracy & Gary REVEL (21 yrs) 31st Diana & Jeff MERRIT (9 yrs)
<u>JULY MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JULY</u>
Eric WILK (1 yr)	Eric WILK
<u>WELCOME ABOARD</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u>
Gary REVEL (Delmar, DE)	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**

CMC Discusses Corps' Challenges
(MARINE CORPS TIMES 13 MAY 13) ... Andrew deGrandpre

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, D.C. — April was tough for the commandant. After the release of next year's budget request, Gen. Jim Amos appeared several times on Capitol Hill to advocate his vision for the Corps and field questions from lawmakers who've yet to reach agreement on how to stave off severe spending cuts. He traveled to the West Coast for several days, pressing flesh with some 10,000 Marines. Then Amos made what he called one of his toughest decisions of the past year: dismissing Col. Kris Stillings, whom he hand-selected to command Officer Candidates School, where, weeks prior, three Marines died in an apparent murder-suicide.

Amos met with Marine Corps Times at his home April 24 to discuss Stillings' removal and his expectations for commanders and general officers in light of recent leadership lapses, including the highly publicized affair that forced retired Gen. David Petraeus to resign as CIA director. He addressed the service's financial uncertainty and how that could affect plans to retain an active-duty force of 182,100, as well as recent changes to the Corps' uniform policy.

Excerpts, edited for space and clarity:

Q. Col. Stillings' relief speaks to the seriousness of your position on accountability. Do you view this as a teaching moment?

A. Absolutely. I realize it could be looked at as a negative event, but I want it to be a positive teaching

moment. We need to hit the refresh button on accountability. We need to remind everybody: staff NCOs, officers, commanders.

Q. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs chair, recommended the services adopt 360-degree evaluations. Where is the Corps going with this?

A. After the Petraeus matter, the Joint Chiefs talked about the things we could do. There's a couple. Number one, for generals, if your staff understands the ethical rules, they can guide the general and help make decisions — whether it's travel, a gift or what event to speak at. Those closest to the inner circle need some degree of training on ethics. Another suggestion: If you're a general, you ought to have at least two or three people reading your email. I'm not talking about the Hotmail account you use to order from L.L. Bean. I'm talking about your military account. You come into my office and say, "How many people read General Amos' email?" Hands will go up everywhere. That keeps me honest. One of the things we talked about was 360-degree evaluations. Every general officer is going to receive a 360. It won't go to promotion boards, but it will help the commandant make his assignments.

Q. On force structure: You've been passionate about keeping faith with Marines as the Corps reduces manpower. With sequestration, the situation is unpredictable at best. At what point do you have to look at involuntary separation measures?

A. I want to make sure everyone at least completes their enlistment. It's been a policy in the Marine Corps that if you make staff sergeant or major, we can carry you to 20 years. It's a loyalty thing. I may reach a point where I can no longer afford to do that. Voluntary separations are where we are now. But if we have to go below 182,000 as a result of sequestration, and we have to get there within five years, then all bets are off. And it'll break my heart. It will involve about every kind of mandatory release from active duty. And there's a cost with that. If we went to 182,000 by the end of this month, I can do that, but I have to pay separation pay and unemployment compensation. So the savings that you would realize by having less force structure, it takes about three years once you make all these penalty payments.

Q. Last winter, you asked Marines to wear a different uniform on Fridays. Is there anything else you're thinking of updating along those lines?

A. I don't think so. Right now, I'm satisfied. When I was at Pendleton, I told the Marines: "OK, I'm going to answer your questions up front, the ones you want to ask. Are we going to go sleeves up? The answer is no. Now, I know you want to show your guns. Believe it or not, there was a period in my life when I had some good-size guns. So I get it. But I have a solution to show off your guns. Wear Charlies on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday — besides Friday. And I'm not changing the uniform on Friday, so just get over it. And by the way, I'm not changing the tattoo policy. Three commandants and nine years went into that. If you think I'm touching that, you're crazy." The Marines in the audience are howling while I'm talking about this. So, no, I don't know of anything uniform-wise that we've got going right now.

Q. Of course, there was a Marine administrative message that just came out addressing exceptions to the uniform policy for religious accommodations, but that's something separate, right?

A. It is, and it boils down to good order and discipline. We've said if you want to wear something, you need to petition a board set up by the deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. That way, we've got standardization. And I think the other services are doing it the same way.

Q. We've reported on Army Sikhs who petitioned to have beards. Is it possible Marines could do that?

A. Anybody can petition. Whether the board will approve it is another story because we're into uniformity. When you become a Marine, you give up a lot of personal rights to be a part of the institution. But anybody can petition.

"G.I. Joe" and as Paul Harvey used to say.....this is the rest of the story ...

On Nov. 15, 2003, an 85-year-old retired Marine Corps colonel died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, Calif., southeast of Palm Springs. He was a combat veteran of World War II. Reason enough to honor him. But this Marine was a little different, this Marine was Mitchell Paige. It's hard today to envision - or, for the dwindling few, to remember-- what the world looked like on 26 Oct 1942. The U.S. Navy was not the most powerful fighting force in the Pacific. Not by a long shot. So the Navy basically dumped a few thousand lonely American Marines on the beach at Guadalcanal and high-tailed it out of there. Nimitz, Fletcher and Halsey had to ration what few ships they had. I've written separately about the way Bull Halsey rolled the dice on the night of Nov. 13, 1942, violating the stern War College edict against committing capital

ships in restricted waters and instead dispatching into the Slot his last two remaining fast battleships, the South Dakota and the Washington, escorted by the only four destroyers with enough fuel in their bunkers to get them there and back.

Those American destroyer captains need not have worried about carrying enough fuel to get home. By 11 p.m., outnumbered better than three- to-one by a massive Japanese task force driving down from the northwest, every one of those four American destroyers had been shot up, sunk, or set aflame. And while the South Dakota -- known throughout the fleet as a jinx ship -- had damaged some lesser Japanese vessels, she continued to be plagued with electrical and fire control problems.

"Washington was now the only intact ship left in the force," writes naval historian David Lippman. "In fact, at that moment Washington was the entire U.S. Pacific Fleet. She was the only barrier between Admiral Kondo ships and Guadalcanal. If this one ship did not stop 14 Japanese ships right then and there, America might lose the Pacific war. ..."

On Washington's bridge, Lieutenant Ray Hunter had the "conn". He had just seen the destroyers Walker and Preston blown sky high. Dead ahead lay their burning wreckage. Hundreds of men were swimming in the water and the Japanese ships racing in. Hunter had to do something. The course he took now could decide the war, Lippman writes. "Come left, he said. ...Washington's rudder change put the burning destroyers between Washington and the enemy, thus preventing her from being silhouetted by their fires.

The move made the Japanese momentarily cease fire. Lacking radar, they could not spot Washington behind the fires. ... Washington raced through burning seas. Dozens of destroyer men were in the water clinging to floating wreckage. Get after them, Washington, one shouted, sacrificing their ships by maneuvering into the path of torpedoes intended for the Washington, the captains of the American destroyers had given [ADM] China" Lee one final chance. Blinded by the smoke and flames, the Japanese battleship Kirishima turned on her searchlights, illuminating the helpless South Dakota, and opened fire. Finally, as her own muzzle blasts illuminated her in the darkness, Admiral Lee and Captain Glenn Davis could positively identify an enemy target. The Washington's main batteries opened fire at 12 midnight precisely. Her radar fire control system functioned perfectly. During the first seven minutes of 14 Nov 1942, the "last ship in the U.S. Pacific Fleet" fired 75 of her 16-inch shells at the battleship Kirishima. Aboard Kirishima, it rained steel. At 3:25 a.m., her burning hulk officially became the first enemy sunk by an American battleship since the Spanish-American War. Stunned the Japanese withdrew. Within days, Japanese commander Istook Yamamoto recommended the unthinkable to the Emperor -- withdrawal from Guadalcanal. But that was still weeks in the future. We are still with Mitchell Paige back on the malaria jungle island of Guadalcanal, placed like a speed bump at the end of the long blue-water slot between New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago ... the very route the Japanese Navy would have to take to reach Australia.

On Guadalcanal the Marines struggled to complete an airfield. Yamamoto knew what that meant. No effort would be spared to dislodge these upstart Yanks from a position that could endanger his ships. Before long, relentless Japanese counterattacks had driven supporting U.S. Navy from inshore waters. The Marines were on their own. As Platoon Sgt. Mitchell Paige and his 33 riflemen set about carefully emplacing their four water-cooled .30-caliber Browning's, manning their section of the thin khaki line which was expected to defend Henderson Field against the assault of the night of 25 Oct 1942, it's unlikely anyone thought they were about to provide the definitive answer to that most desperate of questions: How many able-bodied U.S. Marines does it take to hold a hill against 2,000 desperate and motivated Japanese attackers?

Nor did the commanders of the mighty Japanese Army, who had swept all before them for decades, expect their advance to be halted on some jungle ridge manned by one thin line of Yanks in khaki in October of 1942. But by the time the night was over, The Japanese 29th Infantry Regiment had lost 553 killed or missing and 479 wounded among its 2,554 men, historian Lippman reports. The Japanese 16th Regiment's losses are uncounted, but the [US] 164th's burial parties handled 975 Japanese bodies. ... The American estimate of 2,200 Japanese dead is probably too low.

You've already figured out where the Japanese focused their attack, haven't you? Among the 90 American dead and seriously wounded that night were all the men in Mitchell Paige's platoon; every one. As the night of endless attacks wore on, Paige moved up and down his line, pulling his dead and wounded comrades back into their foxholes and firing a few bursts from each of the four Browning's in turn, convincing the Japanese forces down the hill that the positions were still manned. The citation for Paige's Congressional Medal of

Honor picks up the tale: When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, P/Sgt. Paige, commanding a machine gun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire."

In the end, Sgt. Paige picked up the last of the 40-pound, belt-fed Browning's -- the same design which John Moses Browning famously fired for a continuous 25 minutes until it ran out of ammunition, glowing cherry red, at its first U.S. Army trial -- and did something for which the weapon was never designed. Sgt. Paige walked down the hill toward the place where he could hear the last Japanese survivors rallying to move around his flank, the belt-fed gun cradled under his arm, firing as he went. And the weapon did not fail. Coming up at dawn, battalion executive officer Major Odell M. Conoley was first to discover the answer to our question: How many able-bodied Marines does it take to hold a hill against two regiments of motivated, combat-hardened infantrymen who have never known defeat? On a hill where the bodies were piled like cordwood, Mitchell Paige alone sat upright behind his 30-caliber Browning, waiting to see what the dawn would bring.

One hill: one Marine.

But "In the early morning light, the enemy could be seen a few yards off, and vapor from the barrels of their machine guns was clearly visible," reports historian Lippman. "It was decided to try to rush the position." For the task, Major Conoley gathered together "three enlisted communication personnel, several riflemen, a few company runners who were at the point, together with a cook and a few mess men who had brought food to the position the evening before." Joined by Paige, this ad hoc force of 17 Marines counterattacked at 5:40 a.m, discovering that this extremely short range allowed the optimum use of grenades. They cleared the ridge. And that's where the unstoppable wave of Japanese conquest finally crested, broke, and began to recede. On an unnamed jungle ridge on an insignificant island no one had ever heard of, called Guadalcanal.

But who remembers, today, how close-run a thing it was -- the ridge held by a single Marine, in the autumn of 1942? When the Hasbro Toy Co. telephoned some years back, asking permission to put the retired Colonel's face on some kid's doll, Mitchell Paige thought they must be joking. But they weren't. That's his face on the little Marine they call "G.I. Joe." And you probably thought that was an ARMY Doll.....!!!

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. Numbers 1 through 8 have previously been published.

Myth #9: Some 800,000 Vietnam Vets Suffer PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Fact #9? Some 800,000 Vietnam Vets Suffer PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder:

- 800,000 may suffer PTSD, but whatever the trauma might be, for most of those it could not have been the result of combat.
- Estimates are that less than 400,000 Vietnam veterans served in the Infantry and the Infantry suffered the vast majority of all casualties and serious trauma.

There is unwarranted arrogance in the presumption trauma is the exclusive territory of the combat soldier and therefore combat stress is the source of most PTSD. Trauma is prevalent in 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 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! It would seem fair to speculate that PTSD is probably as common to civilians as it is to soldiers.

Myth #10: Vietnam Was a War Fought By Draftees While W.W. II Was Primarily Fought By Volunteers

Fact #10? Vietnam Was a War Fought By Draftees While W.W. II Was Primarily Fought By Volunteers:

Oddly enough, the opposite appears to be true. About 70% of those who died in Vietnam were volunteers, while roughly 70% of those who died WWII were draftees. (only 17,425 of Vietnam's 58,000 KIA were draftees).

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 June 1st, 2013.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130601%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

[Davis, Staff Sgt. Jonathan D.](#)

Kayenta, AZ

[Sonka, Cpl. David M.](#)

Parker, CO

[Christian, Staff Sgt. Eric D.](#)

Ramsey, NJ

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

Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem.

Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; 1985

LINKS TO CHECK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKqT0-3JV5E&feature=youtube_gdata_player

<http://puttinguptheflag.com/>



-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --