

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

June 2019 Editions



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Detachment # 115
Salisbury, MD

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2019 – 2020

Commandant: Ed Elder

Senior Vice Commandant: Andy Bouma

Junior Vice Commandant: William Jones

Judge Advocate: Thomas Kellar

Junior Past Commandant: Bob Miller

Paymaster: Clifford Fridlind

Adjutant: Richard Hyson

Sgt-At-Arms: Jeff Merritt

Chaplain: Rhuel Goslee

Web Sergeant/Scuttlebutt Editor: 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, 2019 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



2019 Mideast Division Conference 21-23 June 2019

2019 Mideast Division Conference will be June 21-23, 2019 hosted by Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 and the Department of WV at the Days Inn, 347 Meadow Field Lane, Princeton, WV, 24739, Telephone: 304-425-8100.

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/princeton-west-virginia/days-inn-princeton-wv/overview>
Click here for the MED 2019 Conf Brochure and FILLABLE Registration Form

2019 MCL National Convention

August 4 thru 9, 2019

Billings, MT

Register Online at: <https://mclnationalconvention2019.com/registration.php>

Actives Registration Form

<https://www.mclnationalconvention2019.com/registration.php>

American Airline Discount for Flight to National Convention:

<http://www.sediv.org/American%20Airlines%20Discount%20-%202019%20National%20Convention.pdf>

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members and/or family members Paul TOMKO, Rhuel GOSLEE, Ed ELDER, Gloria HOWARD, Don ELSEROAD, Carl EBAUGH and Jeanne COHEE 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> 1st Terry HERLING 2nd Donna JONES 3 rd Ric LINDSTROM 11 th Bill JONES 12th Fran HEARTHWAY 13th 'Josh' KELLEY 16th Richard CARRILLO 17th Madeline PARSONS 18th 'Doc' BRENNER 23rd Bill MARSICH 28th Leslye BRENNER	<u>JULY ANNIVERSARIES</u> 5th Cecelia & Jim SIEGEL (44 yrs) 9th Donna & Louis JONES (45 yrs) 25 th Mary Alice & Bill JONES (59 yrs) 31st Diana & Jeff MERRIT (15 yrs)
<u>JULY MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Eric WILK (7 yrs)	<u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

Check the expiration date on your membership card and if it reads September 2018 or earlier you are due to renew.

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'A lifelong burden': The mixed blessing of the Medal of Honor

Gary Beikirch returned from Vietnam filled with rage and racked by guilt and worried he'd kill the next college kid who spat on him.

The former Green Beret medic let his mustache droop, and his hair reach his shoulders. He bought snow shoes and a thick down jacket and, in 1973, went to live in a cave in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. He laid his sleeping bag and camping mat on a bed of leaves and pine needles. He hoped he'd find in the woods the peace and contentment he'd lost in the jungle.

A few weeks later, Mr. Beikirch drove his Chevy into town, where he took classes at a seminary. He found a note in his post office box instructing him to await a phone call from the Pentagon. That evening, a colonel was on the line telling him he'd be receiving the Medal of Honor for his actions during a North Vietnamese attack on a U.S. Special Forces outpost near the Laotian border.

In the first hour of the assault, on April 1, 1970, shrapnel hit 22-year-old Mr. Beikirch in the spine, leaving him temporarily unable to walk. He draped his arms over the shoulders of two Vietnamese aides as they dragged him through a steady rain of high-explosive shells so he could continue to treat the injured.

Mr. Beikirch kept going for more than 12 hours, at some points exchanging fire with North Vietnamese soldiers while confined to a stretcher. He suffered three bullet wounds before a medevac helicopter finally carried him off.

In October 1973, Mr. Beikirch hiked out of the New Hampshire mountains and caught a flight to Washington. The quartermaster issued him a uniform, and the barber cut his hair. President Richard Nixon fitted the star-spangled blue choker and wreathed medal around his neck.

A couple of days later, Mr. Beikirch returned to his cave and put the medal in his duffel bag. He didn't take it out for another seven years.

"Here I had gone into a cave to try to forget about Vietnam," says Mr. Beikirch, "and now they're going to give me a medal for something I'm trying to forget."

Such is the mixed blessing that is the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Beikirch is in one of the most elite military fraternities in the world, one of 70 living recipients of the nation's highest award for combat valor.

For those who earn it, the medal is a loaded gift. It's a source of instant celebrity, and an entree into a world of opportunity and adulation. It's also a reminder of what is often the worst day of their lives. And it is a summons to lifetime of service from those who did something so courageous as young men—so at odds with their own chances of survival—that it was beyond what duty demands.

Since its establishment during the Civil War, 3,505 servicemen and one woman have received the Medal of Honor. (Surgeon Mary Walker was honored for her civilian service at the 1861 Battle of Bull Run.)

Some recipients embrace the role of Medal of Honor recipient, spending their lives speaking to civic groups, raising money for charities and hobnobbing with movie stars, politicians and professional athletes. Others resent having their private grief turned into a public display.

The Marine Corps is still struggling to stop drill instructors from abusing recruits

□ The Marine Corps is still grappling with issues of abuse among its drill instructors, [The Washington Post reported](#) Wednesday.

□ Documents detailing investigations into various incidents obtained by the Post revealed that Marine Corps drill instructors at Parris Island in South Carolina have been humiliating, physically assaulting, and even endangering recruits.

□ The Marine Corps has been trying to eliminate hazing, abuse and unnecessary cruelty from its training centers since the death of Raheel Siddiqui three years ago, but the problem persists.

The US Marine Corps continues to grapple with hazing at its storied recruit training center at Parris Island in South Carolina, where the service punished at least eight drill instructors and a number of officers for abusive behavior last year, the Washington Post reported Wednesday, citing multiple internal investigations.

The incidents uncovered by the Post involved female drill instructors in the 4th Recruit Training Battalion mistreating female recruits. Battalion drill instructors reportedly humiliated, physically assaulted, and even endangered recruits.

These incidents come despite the Corps' best efforts to curb these unacceptable and dangerous practices.

In one situation, a drill instructor allegedly made a recruit put "feces soiled underwear" on her head.

The DI acknowledged the incident but stressed that the dirty underwear, which the recruit reportedly left under her bed, did not contain any feces. "I was speaking hypothetically and failed to handle the situation with a clear mind through frustration," the drill instructor said, according to documents obtained by the

Post. "I was not trying to embarrass the recruit and more so wanted her to understand why and how it wasn't acceptable.

That incident, which occurred in May 2018, sparked an investigation, one that came on the heels of another investigation following reports that a drill instructor had "roughed up," as the Post described it, several recruits, even going so far as to threaten to break one of their necks.

Another reported case involved a drill instructor forcing female recruits to repeatedly suffer the effects of CS tear gas in a chamber. While the facility is normally used to introduce recruits to the effects tear gas, recruits are typically only required to enter the chamber once.

In total, the Post discovered more than 20 incidents of hazing and abuse at Parris Island and the Marine Corps' West Coast recruit training center in California over the past seven years.

By the far the most serious incident involved former Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison after abusing recruits at Parris Island. He was accused of physically assaulting recruits, as well as targeting Muslims like 20-year-old Pakistani-American recruit Raheel Siddiqui, who fell to his death after Felix physically struck the young man in a 2016 altercation.

And abuse goes well beyond the scope of the recently uncovered investigations. In 2012, a recruit had to get skin grafts due to chemical burns suffered after a drill instructor forced him to train in unsafe conditions. The instructor, former Sgt. Jeffrey VanDyke, was sentenced to a year in military prison in 2014 for abusive behavior, cruelty, and mistreating recruits.

The senior officer in charge of Parris Island, Brig. Gen. James Glynn, stressed to the Post, that while problems do occur, there are more than 600 Marines serving as drill instructors and 98 percent of them do their jobs without incident.

'No harder duty, no greater honor': Marines take care of their own from battlefield to resting place

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Williams, a 25-year reservist, is the most senior enlisted Marine in his occupational field, mortuary affairs.

In civilian life a plant manager for a chemical company, Williams, of Georgia, is one of 200 in his unit, the Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps.

"People ask me why I do it," he told Stars and Stripes on May 8. "The price of doing war is people die, and if it were me, I would want to know that somebody is taking care of me and taking me back home to my family, so they could grieve and get some closure."

Williams recently travelled to Okinawa, Japan, to take part in a command-and-control exercise, MEFEX 19, with III Marine Expeditionary Force. Williams was there to educate sailors and Marines about the mission of mortuary affairs and brief commanders on their responsibilities and the support available to them, according to a Marine Corps statement Monday.

Williams' unit, part of 4th Marine Logistics Group, headquartered in New Orleans, is based in Smyrna, Ga., and Quantico, Va. It was formed in 2003 with the intent of Marines caring for their own fallen.

There is "no harder duty, no greater honor," he said.

Mortuary affairs personnel throughout the service branches are tasked with recovering, processing and returning home the remains of fallen service members.

While deployed in 2003 and 2005, Williams and his team came in right behind the combat element headed into Kuwait and into action in Iraq.

"I feel like after 16 years of doing this, it picked me," he said of his military specialty. "For whatever reason, it doesn't really get in my mind."

Strong family support and his faith play a role in helping him cope with the realities of war, which he has seen firsthand, he said.

Williams said finding what the individual fought for helps him, but shock, sadness and a feeling of personal connection are still emotions that run through him while he's doing his job.

"I don't think it ever gets easy," Williams said. "They've all got a different story and you'll eventually hear their back story of why they joined."

Dover Air Force Base in Delaware hosts the largest mortuary in the Department of Defense and is the only one in the U.S. for servicemembers, according to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations website.

"The goal is to get that Marine back to the family as quickly as possible," Williams said. "It's a 72-hour goal to get them from point of injury, back to Dover."

Prior to the Marine Corps creating the mortuary unit, many Marines were placed into mortuary affairs from various occupational roles, such as cooks or administration, leaving many without the willingness, training or mindset capable to handle the job, Williams said.

Now only Marine reservists serve in this occupational specialty, he said.

These mortuary affairs Marines work alongside other service branches, in which the Army's Quartermaster Corps has been the lead since before the Civil War, according to the Army's website.

On the battlefield, the process starts with a search and recovery of the fallen Marine, whose remains are taken to a collection point and inspected for any unexploded ordnance or hazards, Williams said.

Items recovered from the body and body markings, head to toe, are logged and entered into a registry system that tracks individual Marine casualties until their remains are returned to their families.

"From the battlefield to home, they are always treated with the upmost respect," said Williams. "When we pick them up, it's feet first, just like they are walking with us."

More intricate mortician practices, such as embalming, are not involved in processing the deceased while in theater, but detailed care is given from the moment the teams recover the remains to how they groom and prepare their uniforms for burial, he said.

Williams said he calls on all the experiences he's gained to remind his co-workers in his civilian occupation of those who fight for freedom and their country.

"We should never forget the sacrifices made by our young men and women, and we always honor them. We honor them by finishing what they set out to accomplish, we remember them by never quitting and having the backbone and the guts to never bend to the yoke of oppression," William said. "We honor them and remember them by having the courage to live free."

Marine Poolee Subdues Colorado High School Shooter

DENVER, Colorado – The United States Marine Corps has confirmed that Brendan Bialy, a current poolee in the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program (DEP), assisted in subduing an active shooter at STEM School Highlands Ranch on May 7, 2019.

Brendan's courage and commitment to swiftly ending this tragic incident at the risk of his own safety is admirable and inspiring. His decisive actions resulted in the safety and protection of his teachers and fellow classmates.

Brendan joined the DEP July 12, 2018 out of Recruiting Sub-station Parker, CO, and is scheduled to ship to recruit training this summer.

OOooooo- RAH!!

Department of the Navy is now assigning females to quarters in a separate private "OFF LIMITS" area on all aircraft carriers.

Addressing all boat personnel at Pearl, CINCPAC advised, "Female sleeping quarters will be "out-of-bounds" for all males.

*Anyone caught breaking this rule will be fined \$50 the first time.”
He continued, "Anyone caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$150.
Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$500.
Are there any questions?”*

*At this point, a Marine from the security detail assigned to the ship stood up in the crowd and inquired..
"How much for a season pass?"
God bless the Marine Corps !*

RAO Bulletin

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.

[http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20190601%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20190601%20(PDF%20Edition).pdf)

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

"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."

**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.

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.msn.com/en-us/sports/more-sports/the-greatest-athletes-to-serve-in-the-us-armed-forces/ss-AAxSA6u?li=BBnb7Kz&ocid=U143DHP#image=1>

https://www.topixoffbeat.com/quiz/18919?cvar=t7%3Ai-6r5-TAU6K4M3BUD5138Q&tpx_term=UMDFU0LTPQV5AOH9&utm_campaign=18919&utm_source=msn

https://youtu.be/SKTM5o0_BO0

-- *Once a Marine, Always a Marine* –
OOORAHHH !!!!!

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Saepius Exertus, Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinias
Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever