

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

March 2013 Edition



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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: Jim Siegel

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 March 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



April 26 and 27, 2013: Department of Maryland Convention to be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Complete information and forms may now be viewed and printed out on the "Calendar of Events" page on our web site.
<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/calendar.htm>

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, Ralph SMITH, Jim HENDERSON 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>APRIL "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 6th Kevin GRIFFIN 19th Richard HYSON 27th Ed ELDER 29th Jeanne COHEE	<u>APRIL ANNIVERSARIES</u> None Known
<u>APRIL MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> Joseph BACHTLER (18 yrs) 'Josh' KELLEY (9 yrs) Danny PARSONS (3 yrs) Paul TOMKO, Sr. (Unk)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN APRIL</u> Joseph BACHTLER 'Josh' KELLEY Danny PARSONS Paul TOMKO, 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 \$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**

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Jeopardy Question No One Could Answer:

On Jeopardy one night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns" ---- All three contestants missed it! --

This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance. Very fascinating.

[Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#)

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

Answer: 21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

Answer: 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet?

Answer: His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

Answer: He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Answer: Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

Answer: For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30"

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are:

President Taft, Joe Lewis (the boxer), Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and keep them.

Myths & Misconceptions: Vietnam War Folklore by Michael Kelley July 1998

Editor's Note: 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 5 have previously been published.

Myth #6: Black American Soldiers Suffered Inordinate Casualty Rates

Fact #6? Black American Soldiers Suffered Inordinate Casualty Rates:

Overall casualty rate statistics do not support this assertion. Table 12 of the US Census Bureau's *1999 Statistical Abstract of the US* (on the Internet at: www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/99statab/sec01.pdf) tells us that between 1960 and 1980, Blacks Americans expressed as a percentage of the total US population averaged approximately 11.13%. According to the Combat Area Casualty File (the "CACF," available on the Internet at: <http://www.no-quarter.org/html/crunch.html>), a comprehensive database that allows the user to search

the entire Vietnam Wars casualty data in by any field or combination of fields one might care to employ, the numbers are: Of the entire 58,177 who died in Vietnam, including both officers and enlisted men, 86% were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. According to CACF data: 7,265 was the total number of Black American deaths, which is 12.5% of the total dead (CACF "Race" field entry is "N" with all other fields blank) 17, 672 was the total number of Draftee deaths (all races), which is 30.4% of the total dead (CACF "Component" field entry for Selective Service is "Y" with all other fields blank) 2,387 was the total number of Black Draftee deaths, which is 13.5% of total Draftee dead ("N" in CACF "Race" field plus "Y" in "Component" field with all other fields blank). By contrast, in the introduction to his widely-circulated and well-regarded, *Bloods-An Oral History to the Vietnam War by Black Veterans*, author Wallace Terry states that "In the early years of fighting, Blacks made up 23 percent of the casualties." While that assertion may or may not be true, Mr. Terry does not specify what he meant by the early years of the war, nor does he cite a source for that claim, so it is impossible to verify its accuracy. Terry goes on to say that by his return to Vietnam in 1969, as a reporter with *Time* magazine, "Black combat fatalities had dropped to 14 percent, still proportionately higher than the 11 percent which Blacks represented in the American population. "In other words, where Terry implies that somewhere between 14 and 23 percent of all combat fatalities in Vietnam were suffered by Black Americans, but the truth of the matter is that the actual overall total percentage was 12.5%, a figure only slightly higher than Black Americans' average 11.13% percentage of the US population during the same period. What is more, though it is widely believed by many, including Terry, that Black Americans were inordinately "victims" of the Selective Service System (the Draft), the actual data shows us that 13.5% of all Draftee deaths were Black Americans, a figure only slightly greater than their percentage of the US population. (Frankly, the author expected that percentage to be higher but is thankful the actual percentage suggests that institutional racism was not woven into the fabric of the military as much by the Draft as some claim it to have been.) According to the Combat Area Casualty File, 50,273 enlisted men (those other than officers) were killed and distributed by race as follows:

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Unknown
#	42,490	7,115	219	343	106
%	84.52%	14.15%	.044%	.068%	.021%

During the war, Black Americans comprised roughly 12% of the US population and Whites 80.3% (the term Caucasian or White includes all Hispanics here). Although the Black casualty rate was slightly higher than their percent of population, in some respects it is surprising the disparity was not much greater. In the 50's and early 60's, the US military was regarded as one of the few American institutions offering real opportunity to the poor and disadvantaged of the era, and our Black poor embraced that potential in numbers reflecting their disadvantaged economic position in our culture. As a result, Blacks may have comprised as much as 20% or even more of Army personnel at the start of the Vietnam War and their participation steadily edged downward to about 15% of the military by 1971 (a reduction likely the result Black Americans' growing disenchantment with the war and the perception of a disproportionate burden being shouldered by Blacks). What is perhaps most interesting about the Black American casualty rate in Vietnam is not that it was slightly higher than their percent of the US population, but rather that it was actually lower than the overall percentage of Blacks in the military. - 12.5% of the total deaths versus an estimated average of between 15-20% of the military for the period 1964-1973. It is also a fact that Whites suffered a higher casualty rate than their percentage of the military - 84.52% of the casualties v. approx 75% participation in the military). It is the author's belief that the disparity reflects the fact that for economic reasons, a high percentage of Black Americans enlisted (rather than being Drafted) for longer enlistments and the job opportunities those longer enlistments offered. In other words, by enlisting, one could gain access to training and jobs apart from the Infantry and the dangers it entailed (if drafted, there was perhaps as much as a 90% likelihood an assignment to the infantry and its exponentially higher casualty risks would result).

It is also true that the apparent disproportionate Black casualty rate experienced in the early years of the war reflected many factors other than racism. For one thing, it reflected the fact that at least prior to 1967, Black Americans volunteered for infantry and airborne units at much higher rates than their percentage of population. In other words, while their casualty rate may have been disproportionate at first, that fact reflected their actual representation in the infantry and airborne, not that they were being pushed to the fore of combat while non-Blacks were being held back.

Why Blacks were so disposed may have its roots in cultural norms of the era where manhood and machismo were important measures of respect in Black and Hispanic cultures, and where the degree of risk taken was an important yardstick. It should come of no surprise that in the higher risk professions of the military, many

people of every color often thought they would find the respect of their peers and their own self-respect as well.

While machismo may have been a significant factor contributing to high percentages of Blacks in the combat arms of the military, it is important not to dismiss genuine patriotism as well.

It was certainly the case that many Blacks joined the infantry and airborne units of the US military out of a true sense of patriotic zeal. In fact, most of the men who fought in Vietnam grew up in the John Kennedy era, an era in which patriotism and genuine concerns for duty, honor and country were instilled in and professed by many of those who served. The pervasive cynicism and turn toward the "me first syndrome" that infected later generations did not exist to any significant degree early in the war, and for those who did not live through that era, I am certain it is very difficult to understand or appreciate just how significant those influences were between 1962 and 1968.

While Black Americans may have drafted in numbers somewhat disproportionate to their percentage of the population at the beginning of the war, draft reform reversed that inequity starting in about mid-1967. In the early 60's, students entering college became eligible for student deferments and, until reform measures were enacted, could enjoy their 2-S deferment almost without restriction as long as they remained in college. When the obvious inequities were quantified, public outcry resulted in a revamping of the Selective Service system in '67, after which college deferments were vigorously limited and regulated. It would seem reasonable to conclude that Selective Service laws were not intentionally designed to discriminate against Blacks, or any other minorities, as some have argued, because in my opinion the early Draft disparity was more the result of economic rather than racial bias. Draft laws simply favored the wealthy. CACF searches were further refined to explore the ratio of hostile versus non-hostile deaths among Black Americans to see if there might be any disparity in that category. Of the 58,177 Vietnam war dead listed in DOD stats for the Vietnam War located on the Internet at: <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/mmids/m01/SMS223R.HTM>, 10,799 Americans are said to have died from non-hostile causes such as accidents, normal mortality, murder, suicide and so on. That is, roughly 18.56% of our war dead was recorded as having been the result of non-hostile causes. The CACF file was then searched by Race "N", and for each category of non-hostile death causes, with all other fields blank.

"CASTYPE": The CACF categorizes casualties primarily as hostile or non-hostile in the "CAS1" field (and further within each type in subsequent CAS2 and CAS3 fields). For the primary "CAS1" field, in sequential searches, C1, C2, C3, D5, and D6 were entered per the following listed categories found in the CACF.txt descriptive legend linked within the CACF search page. The results of each search are also listed:

C1 = NON-HOSTILE, Died Of Other Causes = 1,079

C2 = NON-HOSTILE, Died Of Illness/Injury = 287

C3 = NON-HOSTILE, Died While Missing = 178

D5 = NON-HOSTILE, Missing, Returned = 0

D6 = NON-HOSTILE, Now Missing = 0

Total NON-HOSTILE, Black American deaths = 1,544

Black American non-hostile deaths expressed as a percentage of total non-hostile deaths is then 1,544 divided by 10,799, which yields a figure of 14.56%, where the expected figure should approximate 18.6%.

What that finding means, is difficult to say. It does seem to suggest that Blacks may have been exposed to combat slightly more than non-blacks, but then other non-malicious factors contributed to that circumstance as discussed above.

It is also curious to note that Asian Americans suffered casualties far below their percentage of population. That may have been the result of cultural influences limiting Asian American interest in the military and of a conscious military policy to limit their exposure in the combat zone. It is my understanding the military was concerned American Asians might be mistaken for the enemy by our own troops and made a conscious effort to limit their assignments to jobs within the combat zone (Caution: possible myth in its infancy?). Oddly enough, the most blatant discriminatory aspect of Draft is often simply overlooked altogether. It is a fact that only men were required to register for the Draft and subjected to conscription. Sexual discrimination then was both total and socially acceptable during the war.

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 links below that will take you to the current bulletins so that you might look them over. The below bulletin is dated March 1st, 2013.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130301%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 Final Roll Call



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

I was beginning to think I would never see this day come. In all the years I have been Editor of the Scuttlebutt this is the second month in a row we have had NO Marines and/or Corpsman pay the ultimate sacrifice in our war on terrorism.

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

You'll never get a Purple Heart hiding in a foxhole! Follow me!

Capt. Henry P. Crowe, USMC; Guadalcanal, 13 January 1943

LINKS TO CHECK

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=RZ7968BbMnU&vq=medium

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

<ftp://ftp.mcltreacoheedet115.org/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv9lBqPVuoE&feature=uploademail>



-- *Once a Marine, Always a Marine* --