

# *Semper Fi*

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

September 2015 Edition



*Don Elseroad, Editor*  
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*SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III*  
*Detachment # 115*  
*Salisbury, MD*

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2015 - 2016

*Commandant: Ed Elder*

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 October 14<sup>th</sup>, 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

October 12



Columbus Day

October 31



Halloween

### MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 3 – 5, 2016

MARRIOTT FAIRVIEW PARK

3111 Fairview Park Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: (703) 849-9400 \$103.00 per night

Registration information

ALL DEADLINES ARE 8 FEBRUARY 2016

93<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Convention – Tulsa, OK

August 7 through 12, 2016

Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tulsa, OK (918) 234-1234  
 Online reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/14080583/owner/55460/home>  
 More information coming soon!

**"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)**

<p><b><u>OCTOBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u></b>          10<sup>th</sup> Andy BOUMA      14th Carl EBAUGH          15th Jeannie WARD    24<sup>th</sup> Jeanette COUNTS</p>	<p><b><u>OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES</u></b>          23rd Gloria &amp; Jimmie Lee HOWARD (66 yrs)</p>
<p><b><u>OCTOBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u></b>          None</p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN OCTOBER</u></b>          None</p>
<p><b><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u></b>          None reported to your editor</p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u></b>          None reported to your editor</p>

**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**

**A Researcher Discovered in 2 Months What It Took The VA 12 Years To Find!**

Well, the VA is at it again, making promises that they don't seem to keep. This time, however, the broken promise is far more unforgivable. During WWII, there was a fear of troops being attacked by mustard gas. To understand this new chemical weapon, the U.S. government ran experiments on thousands of soldiers to test its reactions on humans. They didn't think, at that time, that mustard gas could have long-term effects on health. But what for happened afterwards, there is no excuse.

The magnitudes of these tests were huge.

The government tested the effect of mustard gas on about 6,000 soldiers during WWII, the evidence of which was kept secret for nearly 50 years, until the 1990s when the records of these tests were made public.

In a recent exposé of this story done by Caitlin Dickerson of NPR, veterans she interviewed described the testing conditions with haunting details. Charlie Cavell was only 19 when the government tested on him. He recalls his skin turning red and burning in the areas where he sweat the most e.g. his armpits, legs, and behind his neck.

After he was released from the locked room containing the mustard gas, he was ordered to continue wearing his gas-soaked uniform. The soldiers associated with the experiments were threatened with dishonorable discharge if they were to tell anyone.

There are many stories like this, of the horrific experiences these soldiers went through. The government even tested mustard gas on African-American, Puerto Rican, and Japanese-American soldiers to test if there were differences in soldiers' reactions to the chemical weapon based on their race.

And this entire set of experiments –which exposed volunteer soldiers to mustard gas via patch tests of their skin, field tests, and isolation chambers– were kept a secret for decades until they were declassified in 1993. Dickerson explains:

“When those experiments were formally declassified in the 1990s, the Department of Veterans Affairs made two promises: to locate about 4,000 men who were used in the most extreme tests, and to compensate those who had permanent injuries.”

But after the declassification of the mustard gas experiments, the VA claimed that they didn't have enough information to adequately track down the affected veterans and their spouses. After nearly 50 years, they said that there just wasn't enough info to properly track down the soldiers who volunteered.

The VA only sent 610 letters out of the 4,000 they'd intended.

But, in her research for Dickerson's story, Barbara Van Woerkom (NPR Investigations' Research Librarian) discovered how many of these vets and their families were easily trackable. Using info provided by the VA's former epidemiologist, public records, and the Freedom of Information Act, Van Woerkom was able to find 1,200 veterans and surviving family members!

Why wasn't the VA able to track down these people?

Van Woerkom was able to find out twice as much as the VA did. The more alarming fact though is that it took her 2 months, while it took the VA 12 years!

It is important that these families are contacted. Getting health benefits from the VA can be very hard. They offered benefits to veterans that had health conditions based on exposure to the gas, but only if they could *prove* that they were part of the experiments... which were classified... You see the issue.

The VA has since tried lowering its “burden of proof” for veterans to get health benefits, but with the population of WWII vets growing smaller and smaller, many that could have benefited from additional health care have already passed away. The VA is an important part of our government. But it's meant to take care of our soldiers after they've given up their lives to our country...Our veterans deserve better.

#### Why Does The VA Treat Female Veterans Like They Don't Matter? This Needs To End!

The abhorrent treatment of veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs has been very well documented, and while there have been some small improvements, there is still an incredibly long way to go. One of the most glaring disparities between the “comprehensive medical benefits package” that the VA promises to all veterans and the reality of what they provide is seen with female veterans. The near dismissal of women in regards to medical treatment borders on criminal, and it's time the VA was pressured into helping out ALL veterans, not just men.

Men and women have different medical needs. From pregnancy, to mammograms, to basic OB-GYN checkups, many women's needs are not provided with any regularity or accessibility. Last year, 390,000 female veterans tried to use VA services, and the reality of their situation became staggeringly clear. 1 in 4 VA hospitals lack a full time gynecologist, and in the 920 clinics that work with the VA to provide health care in rural areas, 140 do not have a designated women's health care provider. Since many VA clinics can't provide mammograms, women are sent to other hospitals, often not receiving results in the 2 week window required from VA facilities. Women were also placed on the notorious VA wait list at a far higher average than men, and were more likely to be given medication and treatment that could cause birth defects than women who went to a private hospital.

There is no shortage of issues with the way the VA has handled veterans since its inception, including riots in the 1930's and 1970's, but its refusal to recognize the needs of female veterans, who make up 15% of the veteran population today, is the most atrocious. We need to demand that women receive the health care they deserve after serving our country. Help protect our female veterans!

We see lots of pictures of wounded male veterans. Did you ever see a picture of wounded female veterans? Here is one.



### 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 September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and needs to view before September 15<sup>th</sup> or the link will no longer work.

[http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20150901%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.com/Bulletin%20150901%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.

### From your editor

If you are receiving this newsletter via "Snail Mail" and have email capability, please email me at [53usmc73@byunet.net](mailto:53usmc73@byunet.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.staged.com/video?v=Klmb>

<http://insider.foxnews.com/2015/06/20/world-war-ii-veterans-start-dance-party-airport-during-honor-flight>

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

# GOD BLESS AMERICA



**THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES ARE OWNED/OPERATED BY MARINES ON THE LOWER EASTERN SHORE. IF THE NEED ARISES, CHECK THEM OUT.**

<p>Carl P. Hoffman, Jr. President</p> <p><b>Carl Hoffman &amp; Associates</b> <i>Accounting and Tax Service</i></p> <p>913-B Snow Hill Road Salisbury, Maryland 21804</p> <p>410-749-7555 Fax 410-749-2088 www.choffmanassociates.com</p>	<p>ROUTE 13 NORTH &amp; 101 ALEXANDER AVE SALISBURY, MD 21801</p> <p><b>DAVID GRANT</b></p> <p><b>410-742-3243</b></p> <p> *COMPLETE AUTO &amp; TRUCK REPAIR *24 HOUR TOWING &amp; ROADSIDE SERVICE </p> <p><b>Grant's SERVICE CENTER</b> <i>Think a Little Bigger</i></p>
<p><b>SOMERSET LOCK &amp; KEY</b> Commercial • Residential • Auto Lockout Service</p> <p>PAUL WARD</p> <p>ONE HUDSON ST. CRISFIELD, MD 21817</p> <p>410-968-2676 Pager 380-6640</p> 	<p>Roger Martinson Financial Advisor</p> <p><b>Edward Jones</b> MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING</p>  <p>38650 Sussex Highway Stateline Plaza Unit 7 Delmar, DE 19940 Office 302-846-3424 Fax 855-801-9423 roger.martinson@edwardjones.com www.edwardjones.com</p>
<p><b>AIRPORT Self Storage</b> WWW.AIRPORTSELFSTORAGE.COM</p> <p>JESSICAH PETERS OWNER</p> <p>51665 MT HERMON RD SALISBURY, MD 21804</p> <p>P 410.749.6165 F 410.749.9351</p>	<p>denisew7530@yahoo.com      williamsmkt.com</p>  <p>2847A NANTICOKE RD. SALISBURY, MD</p> <p><b>410-742-0851</b></p>