

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

September 2016 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

2016 - 2017

Commandant: Bob Miller

Senior Vice Commandant: Ed Elder

Judge Advocate: Ed Hearthway

Paymaster: Andy Bouma

Sgt-At-Arms: Jeff Merritt

Junior Vice Commandant: Roger Martinson

Junior Past Commandant: Ed Elder

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 12th, 2016 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



All 2016 Conventions are now history. 2017 Conventions will be added as information becomes available.

2017 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be March 1 - 5, 2017 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center, 2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Group code: MCLMDWINTER17
Phone: 1-540-786-8321. Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy.

2017 Mideast Division Conference will be June 23-25, 2017 hosted by Department of North Carolina at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, North Carolina, 27703. Tel: 1-919-941-6000 after May 17, 2016 for reservations. Room rate: \$99.00 plus room tax. Free breakfast and parking provided. Check out the hotel on the following link: <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/north-carolina/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-raleigh-durham-airport-at-research-triangle-park-RDUDADT/index.html> More information will be provided as it becomes available.

2017 MCL National Convention

August 13 - 18, 2017

At the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Sheraton Web-Site: <http://www.sheratonoverlandpark.com/>
 Book By Phone: 1-866-837-4214 commencing Monday, August 15, 2017 at 0801 CST. Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.
 More information will be made available ASAP

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members Lee HOLLOWAY, Ed HEARTHWAY, Gloria HOWARD, Walt & 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)

<u>OCTOBER "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 10 th Andy BOUMA 14 th Carl EBAUGH 15 th Jeannie WARD 24 th Jeanette COUNTS	<u>OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES</u> None
<u>OCTOBER MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> None	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN OCTOBER</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
 Salisbury, MD 21804-1464



**DON'T DELAY...JOIN TODAY
 THEN CONSIDER GOING 'LIFE'
 NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT**

Marine General John Paxton, assistant commandant, retires after 42 years in uniform

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON — On a warm summer evening, more than 200 Marines with fixed bayonets stood at attention to honor Assistant Commandant Gen. John "Jay" Paxton Jr.

Paxton is retiring after 42 years in the Marine Corps. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and Commandant Robert Neller paid tribute to Paxton's accomplishments during a Thursday ceremony here.

Carter recalled working with Paxton in 2009, when the general was instrumental in rushing more than 8,000 armored vehicles to troops in Afghanistan within 16 months. Whenever Paxton went downrange, he would

visit forward operating bases and ask troops what they needed, Carter said.

"Jay Paxton made great changes possible when it was needed most," he said. "He saved lives, countless lives."

Neller called Paxton "the most tireless, selfless human being I have ever met in my life," who worked round the clock to get the job done.

He remembered taking Paxton's job on the Joint Staff when a guard at the Pentagon told him "You're here almost as much as Gen. Paxton."

"I said, 'That's one of the nicest things anyone has ever said,'" Neller recalled.

Typically humble, Paxton said he was proud to be on the team, adding that all he ever wanted to be was a Marine.

"The Marine Corps lied to me: I thought it was only three years, not 42," he joked, saying he could never figure out the manpower and management system, quipping that it must be run by "communist rat bastards."

Paxton was commissioned in 1974 and served as commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 1st Marine Division and Marine Forces Command before becoming assistant commandant in December 2012.

He is widely admired by the enlisted Marines and officers who have served with him, such as retired Gen. James Mattis, the former head of U.S. Central Command.

"As a leader and as a Marine, he was just first rate," Mattis told Marine Corps Times. "He and his wife never lost sight of what the families and what the youngest troops were going through. They never had to be reminded. That was their focus."

On the battlefield, Paxton quickly picked up the enemy's rhythms and kept his Marines "focused on that balance between going after the enemy and not hurting the innocent," Mattis said.

"He'll be remembered as one heck of a professional but one who kept his sense of humor and he kept his trust in the young guys," Mattis said. "He never lost faith. He never lost heart. He never took refuge in 'things are bad' or cynicism. That just wasn't his way. He always found a way to solve a problem."

Paxton wanted all of his enlisted Marines to serve out their time honorably, but he knew that Marines can make mistakes, said retired Gen. John Kelly, former commander of U.S. Southern Command. Paxton is a caring leader, Kelly said, and he knows how to discipline his Marines when needed "without ruining their lives."

"More importantly, [Paxton knows] how to lead them to do their jobs and serve the nation and — at the same time — grow as young people throughout their time of service until they are discharged and go off into the world and do great things as citizens," he said.

Paxton is staunch advocate of enlisted leaders who epitomizes Lt. Gen. John Lejeune's command philosophy about the relationship between officers and enlisted Marines, said retired Sgt. Maj. Frank Pulley, who served with Paxton at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and when he led 1st Marine Division.

"He fully embraced the concept that the Marine Corps is made up predominantly of enlisted personnel and he treated the enlisted with utmost respect and regard and saw all the sergeants major and master gunnies and the staff [noncommissioned officers] as the keepers of tradition and the masters of Marine know-how," Pulley said.

"Everyone would follow him," he added. "I would follow him through the gates of hell with gasoline skivvies. Absolutely."

Should Vets with PTSD be Considered for the Purple Heart?

The United States Military recognizes those who have been killed or wounded in battle with the Purple Heart. It's one of the oldest awards for such service in the country, and there have been countless recipients since it was first pinned on a soldier in 1917.

But what about those whose wounds we may never see? What about those whose wounds are deep within? Over the last decade, Post-traumatic stress disorder cases among service members have increased tremendously. The Pentagon isn't ignoring the fact either. New methods of treatment are being explored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. PTSD has gained national visibility but it's still not recognized as a wound meriting the Purple Heart.

Part of the reason for this is because PTSD is diagnosed after the fact; usually long after the event or events that prompted the mental wound, and often after a discharge from service. The VA doesn't have a system for relaying mental health records back to the military for the sake of awards. It's never been done, despite studies that have shown Purple Heart recipients actually [live longer](#) than their brothers in arms. The VA studied 10,255 veterans of World War II and the Korean War and found that those awarded the Purple Heart had longer lifespans than those who didn't.

Another reason veterans with PTSD are not eligible for the Purple Heart is because it's actually against the rules. In 2009 [The Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) stood by the Pentagon's decision to disqualify veterans with PTSD from receiving the Purple Heart. The MOPH released a statement on the matter in 2012.

"As an organization that is composed solely of Purple Heart recipients, we have supported fully the Pentagon's decision not to award the Purple Heart for PTSD. Obviously, we are very sympathetic to those who suffer this terrible disorder. You can hardly find anyone who has served in combat, and especially those who have been wounded in combat, that doesn't return with some form of PTSD. In recent years, the Military and the VA have become much more aware of its effects and are expanding and improving their treatment of PTSD."

"The criteria for this particular medal, however, are the suffering of physical wounds on the battlefield as the result of combat action by the enemies of the United States. Moreover, PTSD is a treatable disease — loss of a limb, or any combat wound for that matter, is permanent. And, what about those who feign the illness just to receive VA medical treatment; or, what about a group who witnesses a battlefield trauma together, but only one or two suffer from PTSD; should they all receive the Purple Heart?"

"The Purple Heart: Background and Issues for Congress," by Barbara Salazar Torreon, an Analyst in Defense Budget and Military Manpower, was brought before Congress in 2015. In the report, Torreon claims that the amount of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress issues have led the Department of Defense to revisit its Purple Heart criteria.

"DOD considers some TBIs eligible for the Purple Heart, as many of those injuries can be diagnosed using brain scans and other objective medical tests," Torreon wrote. "However, there is continued debate on the validity of mental conditions, such as PTSD, being a part of the appropriate criteria for the Purple Heart. Congress, as well as various executive agencies and departments, is funding and conducting studies regarding PTSD."

The [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) is spearheading efforts to make veterans with PTSD eligible for the Purple Heart. The mission of the national grassroots advocacy group is to eliminate the stigma surrounding PTSD and to encourage those who suffer from it to get help.

"NAMI is drawing a line in the sand with the Department of Defense," said NAMI Executive Director Michael J. Fitzpatrick. "Troops with invisible wounds are heroes. It's time to honor them. It will also strike a tremendous blow against the stigma that often discourages individuals from seeking help when they need it." Whether they wear their awards or not, Fitzpatrick calls for respect and decency for all our veterans, and asks that Americans reach out and help them when necessary.

"Simple things make a difference," he said. "Give veterans rides, watch their children or grant them extra time off from work in order to make it possible for them to get treatment. Our troops don't leave wounded comrades behind. Don't leave veterans or their families behind."

It will take an act of Congress for veterans with PTSD to be considered for the Purple Heart, and that's just what NAMI and other groups are putting their efforts behind precipitating. For those that have already been awarded the Purple Heart, physical scars can be painful reminders of war, and few come close to the story

behind the scar on Pvt. Channing Moss' side. [Follow this link](#) to read more about how Moss took an RPG to the stomach and lived to talk about it.

Free Flu Shots: From now through March 31, 2017, all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system can receive free flu shots at any Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. The joint outreach health initiative is designed to help serve veterans closer to where they reside. Veterans must bring their VA identification cards with them, as well as another photo ID, and complete a short four-question application, which will be used to automatically update their VA Electronic Health Records. No appointments are necessary.

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 15th, 2016 and must be viewed by October 1st, 2016 when it will go off-line.

[http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20160915%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20160915%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@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

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.youtube.com/embed/JVAhr4hZDJE#t=19*

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

OOORAH!!

GOD BLESS AMERICA



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

Carl P. Hoffman, Jr.
President

Carl Hoffman & Associates
Accounting and Tax Service

913-B Snow Hill Road
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

410-749-7555
Fax 410-749-2038
www.choffmanassociates.com

ROUTE 13 NORTH &
101 ALEXANDER AVE
SALISBURY, MD 21801

DAVID GRANT



410-742-3243

 • COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR
• 24 HOUR TOWING & ROADSIDE SERVICE 

SOMERSET LOCK & KEY
Commercial • Residential • Auto
Lockout Service

PAUL WARD



ONE HUDSON ST.
CRISFIELD, MD
21817

410-968-2676
Pager 380-6640

Roger Martinson
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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
www.edwardjones.com

AIRPORT
Self Storage
WWW.AIRPORT-SELF-STORAGE.COM

JESSICAH PETERS OWNER

51665 MT HERMON RD P 410.749.6163
SALISBURY, MD 21804 F 410.749.9331

denisew7530@yahoo.com williamsmkt.com



410-742-0851