

# Semper Fi

## "THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

July 2013 Edition



*Don Elseroad, Editor*  
355 Beaverview Drive  
Bristol, VA 24201-1880  
276-645-0482  
[53usmc73@bvunet.net](mailto: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 August 14<sup>th</sup>, 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)*

#### AUGUST "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"

4th David MILLS  
8<sup>th</sup> Charles SANDS  
30th Don ELSEROAD

#### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4th Barb & Carl EBAUGH (22 yrs)  
11th Tara & Danny PARSONS (17 yrs)  
19th Barbara & George "Buddy" MURRAY (57 yrs)  
22nd Alane & Ralph CAPEN (14 yrs)  
26th Jeannie & Paul WARD (50 yrs)

<b><u>AUGUST MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u></b> Walter COHEE, Jr. (9 yrs) Robert HORTIE, Sr. (9 yrs)	<b><u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN</u></b> <b><u>AUGUST</u></b> Robert HORTIE, Sr.
<b><u>WELCOME ABOARD</u></b> None reported to your editor	<b><u>MEMBERSHIP'S RENEWED</u></b> 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**

**Betrayal in Benghazi**

Phil "Hands" Handley Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

The combat code of the US Military is that we don't abandon our dead or wounded on the battlefield. In US Air Force lingo, fighter pilots don't run off and leave their wingmen. If one of our own is shot down, still alive and not yet in enemy captivity, we will either come to get him or die trying.

Among America's fighting forces, the calm, sure knowledge that such an irrevocable bond exists is priceless. Along with individual faith and personal grit, it is a sacred trust that has often sustained hope in the face of terribly long odds.

The disgraceful abandonment of our Ambassador and those brave ex-SEALs who fought to their deaths to save others in that compound is nothing short of dereliction-of-duty. Additionally, the patently absurd cover-up scenario that was fabricated in the aftermath was an outright lie in an attempt to shield the President and the Secretary of State from responsibility.

It has been over eight months since the attack on our compound in Benghazi . The White House strategy, with the aid of a "lap dog" press has been to run out the clock before the truth is forthcoming.

The recent testimonies of the three "whistle blowers" have reopened the subject and hopefully will lead to exposure and disgrace of those responsible for this embarrassing debacle. It would appear that the most recent firewall which the Administration is counting on is the contention "that there were simply no military assets that could be brought to bear in time to make a difference" mainly due to the unavailability of tanker support for fighter aircraft. This is simply BS, regardless how many supposed "experts" the Administration trot out to make such an assertion.

The bottom line is that even if the closest asset capable of response was half-way around the world, you don't just sit on your penguin ass and do nothing.

The fact is that the closest asset was not half-way around the world, but as near as Aviano Air Base, Italy where two squadrons of F-16Cs are based.

Consider the following scenario (all times Benghazi local): When Hicks in Tripoli receives a call at 9:40 PM from Ambassador Stevens informing him "Greg, we are under attack!" (His last words), Hicks immediately notifies all agencies and prepares for the immediate initiation of an existing "Emergency Response Plan."

At AFRICON, General Carter Ham attempts to mount a rescue effort, but is told to "stand down". By 10:30 PM an unarmed drone is overhead the compound and streaming live feed to various "Command and Control Agencies" so everyone watching that feed knew damn well what was going on.

At 11:30 PM Woods, Doherty and five others leave Tripoli, arriving in Benghazi at 1:30 AM on Wednesday morning, where they hold off the attacking mob from the roof of the compound until they are killed by a mortar direct hit at 4:00 AM.

So nothing could have been done, eh? Nonsense. If one assumes that tanker support really "was not available" what about this:

When at 10:00 PM AFRICON alerts the 31st TFW Command Post in Aviano Air Base, Italy of the attack, the Wing Commander Orders preparation for the launch of two F-16s and advises the Command Post at NAS Sigonella to prepare for hot pit refueling and quick turn of the jets.

By 11:30 PM, two F-16Cs with drop tanks and each armed with five hundred 20 MM rounds are airborne. Flying at 0.92 mach they will cover the 522 nautical miles directly to NAS Sigonella in 1.08 hours. While in-route, the flight lead is informed of the tactical situation, rules of engagement, and radio frequencies to use.

The jets depart Sigonella at 1:10 AM with full fuel load and cover the 377 nautical miles directly to Benghazi in 0.8 hours, arriving at 1:50 AM which would be 20 minutes after the arrival of Woods, Doherty and their team.

Providing that the two F-16s initial pass over the mob, in full afterburner at 200 feet and 550 knots did not stop the attack in its tracks, a few well-placed strafing runs on targets of opportunity would assuredly do the trick.

Were the F-16s fuel state insufficient to return to Sigonelli after jettisoning their external drop tanks, they could easily do so at Tripoli International Airport, only one-half hour away.

As for those hand-wringing naysayers who would worry about IFR clearances, border crossing authority, collateral damage, landing rights, political correctness and dozens of other reasons not to act -- screw them. It is time our "leadership" get its priorities straight and put America's interests first.

The end result would be that Woods and Doherty would be alive. Dozens in the attacking rabble would be rendezvousing with "72 virgins" and a clear message would have been sent to the next worthless POS terrorist contemplating an attack on Americans that it is not really a good idea to "tug" on Superman's cape.

Of course all this depends upon a Commander In Chief more concerned with saving the lives of those he put in harm's way than getting his crew rested for a campaign fund raising event in Las Vegas the next day. It also depends upon a Secretary of State who actually understood "What difference did it make?", and a Secretary of Defense who was watching the feed from the drone and understood what the attack consisted of instead of making an immediate response that "One of the military tenants is that you don't commit assets until you fully understand the tactical situation." YGBSM!

Ultimately it comes down to the question of who gave that order to stand down. Whoever that coward turns out to be should be exposed, removed from office, and face criminal charges for dereliction of duty. The combat forces of the United States of America deserve leadership that really does "have their back" when the chips are down.

## 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 10 have previously been published.

### Myth #11: Combat In World War II Was More Intense Than In Vietnam

#### Fact #11? Combat In World War II Was More Intense Than In Vietnam:

It is likely true that combat during WWII was on average much more intense during the actual period of time individual units were exposed to combat. However, overall casualty rates and duration of individual exposure to actual combat were higher in the Vietnam than WWII.

Overall casualty rates in Vietnam were actually 2 1/2 times greater than those suffered in WWII. 92 Army & Marine Infantry Divisions fought in WWII. They suffered an average of roughly 1,600 battle deaths per division. Roughly 10 Army and Marine Divisions fought in Vietnam and averaged 4,600 deaths per division. Most WWII American Infantry division combat time was less than one year. In fact, the combat exposure of most US units can be measured in months rather than years. Consider the fact that, with the exception of the North African/Italian campaign, American units did not enter the war in Europe until June, 1944, and that campaign was over by June 1945. Apart from a few Army Divisions which fought for more than a year in the Pacific, actual combat exposure during the Marine Island hopping campaign between 1942 and 1945, is measured in months. While extremely violent and bloody, fighting in WWII was restricted to relatively short periods of time. The United States Marine Corps in the Pacific during WWII was in actual combat for a period of less than one year (<200 days?) and suffered fewer total casualties than it did during the 5-6 years it was in Vietnam.

### Myth #12: American Soldiers Were Fond of the South Vietnamese and Held a Deep Hatred for the Enemy

#### Fact #12? American Soldiers Were Fond of the South Vietnamese and Held a Deep Hatred for the Enemy:

It is by no means my intention to offend readers of Vietnamese ancestry, but some of what will be discussed here may be very unpleasant for them hear. What will be said are generalizations based on my actual observations of American soldiers' attitudes and behavior in Vietnam. There were exceptions to these generalizations certainly, many exceptions in fact, but this report is an honest attempt to quantify what I saw and experienced firsthand.

Before serving there, most US personnel had little or no idea where the country was located on the globe, much less knowledge of its peoples' cultures and customs. Fewer still had even the faintest familiarity with its political, military and social history. That ignorance was compounded by the military's serious failure to provide substantive training in that regard. The average Infantry soldier had perhaps a total of one or two hours of training in Vietnamese culture or history. Still others had no training whatsoever about the country they would be living and fighting in for at least a year. As a result, Americans attitudes and behavior reflected and were disfigured by an abysmal ignorance of the Vietnamese peoples.

Sadly, I would have to say that most US troops developed a fundamental distrust and dislike for the Vietnamese in general; North or South Vietnamese, it did not matter which. The resulting coarse, boorish, often arrogant and superior attitudes evident in the US soldier also did little to endear them to the Vietnamese. I think it fair to say the Vietnamese developed a justifiable contempt for the Americans in return.

Opinions held by US troops regarding ARVN soldiers were almost universally negative, if not outright hostile. Vietnamese Army training was relatively poor and officers gained rank more as a function of wealth and political influence than of skill. As a result, ARVN troops appeared lazy and incompetent by US military standards and relations between the two forces were uneasy at best. In fact, on more than a few occasions each intentionally took the other under fire. For the most part, the ARVN avoided contact with a religious fervor and was extremely timid in closing with the enemy once escape was no longer an option. That lack

of aggressiveness frustrated and infuriated US troops. Many US soldiers still today hold the ARVN in great contempt because they appeared unwilling to fight for the things we held precious; the things we thought we were there to help them accomplish. In many instances, ARVNs, RFs/PFs simply refused to engage the enemy and would let US forces take the brunt of an engagement whenever possible. Exceptions have been noted by US troops who served and lived with ARVN units for extended periods, but by and large, the ARVN was a poor fighting force by any standard we knew how to apply. South Vietnamese government officials were generally despised by the average soldier. Corruption was prolific and thinly disguised. It was apparent to us that much of the government was motivated more by greed than any desire for freedom or national pride. In many instances, it seemed apparent that South Vietnamese officials and the general population were playing both ways, waving the South Vietnamese flag in one hand and the NLF flag in the other. On the other hand, while the average US soldier may not have liked the enemy, most had a grudging or open respect for their fighting abilities, courage and determination. Many of us were in awe of the hardships and punishment the enemy (particularly the NVA and main force Viet Cong) endured in fighting their war. It was apparent to most of us that these men and women were exceedingly courageous, tenacious, resourceful and actually believed in their cause. By contrast, the ARVN troops appeared to possess none of those attributes and that startling contrast put serious questions in our minds about our participation. More than a few of us carried the uneasy feeling the US had gone in on the wrong side of the fence. Sadly, an underlying current of racism and superiority often governed our attitudes and behavior toward the Vietnamese. That unfortunate circumstance often colored our relationship. It also led to many misunderstandings, stupid mistakes and in some cases to very tragic consequences.

I will leave this topic with an example of humor typical of the period and widely circulated among the US enlisted ranks: "To end this war, all we have to do is put all the South Vietnamese on boats in the South China Sea and then nuke the two countries to a cinder. Then we sink the boats."

### 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 July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and you need to view it before July 15<sup>th</sup> or the link will no longer work.

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/Bulletin%20130701%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

[Brown, Lance Cpl. Jared W.](#)  
Youngstown, FL

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](mailto: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

***Don't you forget that you're First Marines! Not all the communists in Hell can overrun you!***

Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, USMC

rallying his First Marine Regiment near Chosin Reservoir, Korea, December 1950

### LINKS TO CHECK

<http://stg.do/91qb>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_VGxfmDmEo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_VGxfmDmEo)

# God Bless America

-- Once a Marine, Always a Marine --