

DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

One Marine Way, P.O. Box 1831, Riverview, FL 33568 Detachment 1226

Volume 37 April 2012

League Officers:

Commandant: Dennis Antle
Sr. Vice Commandant: Debra Steele

Jr. Vice Commandant:
Adjutant:
Jack Skelding.
Houston Tucker
Judge Advocate:
Walt Raysick
Chaplain:
Dave Blizzard

Chaplain: Dave Blizzard **Sergeant-at-Arms:** George Mc Master

Past Commandant:
Web Sergeant:
Historian:
Newsletter Editor:
Debra Steele
(Editor can be reached at address above and/or Mclriverview@yahoo.com or (813) 545-7526

League Auxiliary

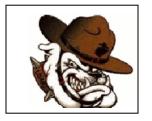
President:Pat SkeldingSr. Vice:Cheryl BainJr. Vice:Shanda AntleJudge Advocate:Kamela RyanChaplain:Barb Wolons

Guard: Mary Ann Raysick

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831 Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

Dennis would like to thank all of you who helped him during his terms as Commandant.

Please join us on April 29, 2012 for our Installation of Officers. For a complete list of your officers that have been elected to be your voice, please refer to the minutes section of the Newsletter.

Debra Steele Sr. Vice Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

This is my last newsletter. We just had elections and now have a new slate of Officers. Congratulations to all! Those elected are Kamela Ryan President, Cheryl Bain Sr. Vice, Shanda Antle Jr. Vice and Susanne Pugh as Judge Advocate. We need to give them all our support. The League has also held their elections and elected Debra Steele as their new Commandant. The MCLA is here to support the League anyway we can. Installation will be held April 29th at 2 pm at the American Legion in Riverview. It will be a Pot Luck so please bring a dish to share. We have most of the Department Officers of both the League and Auxiliary attending. It will be my honor to install Kamela as our new President.

The MCL and MCLA just held another breakfast at the VFW. I want to thank Kamela Ryan and Susanne Pugh for getting up early and coming out to work. We had a great day. I would like to thank all those who came out to support our breakfast.

This week is our Spring Conference in Orlando. I'm happy to see a few more members coming to these events. We do a lot of good work but we also have fun. Fall Conference will be here before you know it. We need some ideas so please put your thinking caps on to see what we can do to help the League make it a success.

Also we will need to nominate a member for "Auxiliary Member of the Year". We present that award out at the

Marine Corps Birthday celebration in November. The criteria is on the Department website at http://www.mclfl.org/AUXILIARY.html.

I would like to take this time to thank Dennis Antle for all his support over the past two years. I would also like to thank his staff for supporting all that the Auxiliary does. We are asking for your continued support. Please check the calendar in the newsletter for upcoming events. As usual if you have any questions please call me at 813-672-1778.

Semper Fi
Pat Skelding

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

Welcome New Associate Member: James Johnson.

Please remember this Detachment is what we make of it and only we can make it grow. Is there someone you know that qualifies to become a member of the Detachment? See a vehicle in a parking lot that as a USMC sticker on it? Why not ask them to join today?

Past due:

Amos, Gregory - Jan 2011 Antle, Danny - Nov 2011 Antle, Jennifer – Nov 2011 Bain, Jacob – Jan 2011 Becker, Dale - Jan 2012 Bennett, Kristine – Feb 2011 Bro, Keith - Jan 2012 Correll, Carl - Oct 2011 Freeman, James Sr. – Dec 2011 Hall, Jeffery – Dec 2011 Larrow, Thomas – Oct 2011 Martin, David - Sep 2010 Miller, Everette G – Jan 2011 Regretta, Leonard Jr – Jan 2011 Scheller, Bruce - Dec 2011 Sherman, Michael - Jan 2012 Toledo, William – Dec 2011 Young, Steven – Feb 2011

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

61 AND OVER \$150.00 51 TO 60 \$300.00 36 TO 50 \$400.00

Should you have any questions regarding the membership please contact Houston Tucker through our Detachment email mclriverview@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Do you have ideas or comments you would like to see in your Newsletter? Do you volunteer for other events for your community other than those associated with the Detachment? If so we want to hear about it and receive photos. This is your Newsletter and we want your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see.

SO LET US KNOW. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!



Looks who is hanging out at this past Conference in Orlando! Left to Right: Walt Ryan, Peter White, Judie White and Kamela Ryan, In back Jack and Pat Skelding



Bernie Kotrady volunteers at the local Nativity Outreach to combat hunger in the Brandon area through the weekly distribution of food at Nativity Catholic Church and in Hillsborough County through other non-profit organizations, churches and ministries.

Come join us on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the VFW 8108 building for breakfast cooked and served by your Detachment. For just \$6 per person you and your family can enjoy all you can eat breakfast. Thank you to those that came and helped cook, serve or purchased breakfast.

WE ARE IN NEED of donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop of any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details. We are considering discontinuing this program.

Come out and join us on the last Saturday of every month from 1000 to 1400 hours. We look forward to your support whether it is washing cars with us or just bringing your car for a wash. Let's get washing!!!!!! No carwash for May.

**Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Willie Little at WLittleJr2@aol.com. We have been very successful with our Rose Fund Events. Thank you to all who have participated and continue to participate. Keep an eye out on the calendar for upcoming events.

**Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick at WRaysick@verizon.net. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter and/or the monthly calendar.

**Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers.

** Hot Dogs: We are selling Hotdogs on Bingo Night at the Legion. Please come and volunteer to help or purchase some delicious hotdogs. Come see what the special of the night is!!! Always a surprise!!!

Advertising: What a great way to advertise your product and/or services to our members!! Need attendees for a local event or cause? Please your information today.

The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League has decided to add the ability for advertisements and announcements in the Newsletter. This monthly Newsletter is distributed to approximately 100 members in our community and surrounding areas.

Size:	Monthly Cost:	Yearly Cost:
Business Card	\$5	\$50
Quarter Page	\$8	\$80
Half Page	\$10	\$100
Full Page	\$15	\$150

^{*}Yearly is discounted two months.

If you are interested in placing an ad and/or event or you would like more information regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact Debra Steele via email (<u>Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com</u>).

Advertisers: Please remember those who support us and give them our support as well!!!



Jack Skelding
District 7 Vice Commandant
Department of Florida
Ph 813-672-1778 Cell 813-830-1138
E:mail jskelding@tampabay.rr.com

Visit our Website at www.mclriverview.org for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests. Check out our new look!!!!!!!!



As you are aware this organization works hard to get Marines oversees care packages and letters. Please visit their website below for more information. We salute you Dianne.

www.supportourmarinesinc.org



Ed Zaleski is still working with Riverview High School in an effort to secure a meeting place. We are still looking for more adult volunteers for this program. Please let me know if you are interested. Contact MCLRiverview@yahoo.com.

Debra Steele Sr. Vice Commandant We need your ideas. If there is other information you would like to see posted or certain topics you would like us to discuss, please let me know. Please email your ideas to mclriverview@yahoo.com



MILITARY NEWS

Attorneys Will Continue to Fight Dismissal of Marine Critical of Obama story from ABCnews.com

Civilian lawyers for the Marine sergeant discharged Wednesday for posting critical comments about President Obama on Facebook say they will continue to fight his dismissal in civilian courts.

On Wednesday, Sgt. Gary Stein was given an "other than honorable" discharge from the Marine Corps for disparaging comments that included labeling President Obama an enemy.

The Marines said the comments by the nine-year veteran were detrimental to good order and discipline and violated military law. Because of the "other than honorable" discharge, Stein will be demoted to lance corporal and be ineligible for most federal veterans benefits.

The conservative U.S. Justice Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union say they will continue to fight Stein's dismissal in federal courts.

They believe the Marine Corps overreached its authority and violated Stein's First Amendments rights to free speech. Earlier this month, a federal judge denied their request for a temporary restraining order to block Stein's dismissal.

Gary Kreep of the U.S. Justice Foundation told ABC News that, once Stein has transitioned out of the Marine Corps in a few weeks, "we'll be amending the complaint to reflect a request for relief for his reinstatement to the Marine Corps. "Kreep said his organization is committed to taking Stein's case all the way to the Supreme Court if that's what he wants.

David Loy, legal director of the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties, confirmed that his organization would continue to pursue Stein's case. He acknowledged that some of Stein's language was "colorful and over the top," but that he was speaking in a hypothetical abstract discussion when he said he would not follow a presidential order he considered unlawful.

Loy said Stein was "blowing off steam" and always said he would continue to do his job as a Marine even though he did not like President Obama. "He never said he wouldn't do his job," said Loy.

"You don't lose your First Amendment speech rights in the military," said Loy, who pointed to the precedent set by U.S. v. Wilcox. In that case, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces held that the First Amendment protected an Army paratrooper who identified himself as a white supremacist on a website.

Stein expressed his disappointment about his discharge on his Facebook page. "I have spent the last 9 years honorably serving this great nation and the Corps," wrote Stein. "Even though I will be discharged no one can take the title of Marine away from me. I thank my family and friends for their support and love. Today is just the start of the rest of my life. Semper Fi." Kreep said Stein's case has united groups from across the political spectrum because "free speech and due process rights are important." He added, "It shows people who disagree on a variety of issues can come together, and that's what we're doing."

Loy agreed noting that the ACLU works to defend civil liberties without regard to political affiliations.

Gov.: Hawaii to get 2,700 Marines from Okinawa By Audrey McAvoy - The Associated Press Posted: Wednesday Apr 25, 2012 8:13:40 EDT

HONOLULU — The military is expected to announce it will transfer up to 2,700 Marines from the Japanese prefecture of Okinawa to Hawaii, Gov. Neil Abercrombie said Tuesday.

The governor didn't say when the Pentagon would announce the new plan. But he said he has talked with

the U.S. Pacific Command in anticipation of more Marines coming to Hawaii. He's also talked to Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima.

"As the Pentagon finalizes its plans, I believe the number of Marines moving to our state will increase and we are well-prepared to receive them,"

Abercrombie said.

There are currently 7,500 Marines stationed in Hawaii.

The U.S. and Japan agreed in 2006 to move 8,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam. But the countries have struggled to implement that plan amid opposition in Okinawa to a part of the deal that would keep a strategically important base — Marine Corps Air Station Futenma — within the prefecture.

U.S. lawmakers have meanwhile expressed concern about the high cost of boosting the military presence on Guam, a U.S. territory about 1,500 miles south of Tokyo and 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

In February, Sen. Daniel Inouye told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that the U.S. would instead move 4,000 Marines to Guam and send the rest to Australia and Hawaii.

Abercrombie indicated his experience in Congress working on legislation for military housing would help ease the move of Marines to Hawaii.

"In my role as governor, I am working to ensure that there is ongoing military and state cooperation to allow for a seamless and smooth transition for our servicemen and women and their families," he said.

In Washington, the top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday cautioned Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that no agreement should be considered final without congressional approval.

"It is essential that we get these important decisions right, and that they be guided by sound strategic concepts and fiscally sustainable plans," Chairman Carl Levin of Michigan, ranking Republican John McCain of Arizona and Democrat Jim Webb of Virginia wrote in a letter to Panetta.

The senators have criticized the original reorganization plans as impractical and costly, and included a provision in the defense budget for 2012 to make progress contingent on the Defense Department's first allowing an independent review.

News from the League

VA Expands Medical Forms Program to Support Faster Claims Processing

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today the release of 68 new forms that will help speed the processing of Veterans' disability compensation and pension claims.

"VA employees will be able to more quickly process disability claims, since disability benefits questionnaires capture important medical information needed to accurately evaluate Veterans' claims," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Disability benefits questionnaires are just one of many changes VA is implementing to address the backlog of claims."

The new forms bring to 71 the number of documents, called disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs), that guide physicians' reports of medical findings, ensuring VA has exactly the medical information needed to make a prompt decision.

When needed to decide a disability claim for compensation or pension benefits, VA provides Veterans with free medical examinations for the purpose of gathering the necessary medical evidence. Veterans who choose to have their private physicians complete the medical examination can now give their physicians the same form a VA provider would use. It is very important that physicians provide complete responses to all questions on the DBQs. VA cannot pay for a private physician to complete DBQs or for any costs associated with examination or testing. "By ensuring relevant medical information can be found on one form, we will cut processing time while

improving quality," added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

DBQ's can be found at http://benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams.

The newly released DBQs follow the initial release of three DBQs for Agent Orange-related conditions. Veterans may file a claim online through the eBenefits web portal at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov. The Department of Defense and VA jointly developed the eBenefits portal as a single secure point of access for online benefit information and tools to perform multiple self-service functions such as checking the status of their claim.

Servicemembers may enroll in eBenefits using their Common Access Card at any time during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings. Veterans may also enroll in eBenefits and obtain a Premium account in-person or online depending on their status.

Marines to cut four battalions, 12 air squadrons

By David Alexander | Reuters

Marine Corps said on Wednesday it would cut four infantry battalions and 12 flying squadrons over the next five years as it shrinks by 20,000 personnel to meet budget constraints and peacetime needs after more than a decade of war.

The biggest cuts would fall on Marine Corps bases in North Carolina, with Camp Lejeune and the adjacent New River air base losing 5,800 personnel and Cherry Point air base losing another 2,100. Three California Marine bases - Camp Pendleton, 29 Palms and Miramar - would lose a total of 6,000 personnel.

http://news.yahoo.com/marines-cut-four-battalions-12-air-squadrons-004007916.html

MARINE TIDBITS:

3 April 1945: On Okinawa, Marines of the III Amphibious Corps continued to make good progress all along their front, clearing Zampa Misaki and seizing the Katchin Peninsula, thus effectively cutting the island in two. By this date (D+2), III AC elements had

reached objectives thought originally to require 11 days to take.

5 April 1947: Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.

10 April 1959: Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. The seven astronauts, all volunteers, were selected by NASA from an initial group of 110 leading military test pilots. Three years later, on 20 February 1962, Col Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth.

12-13 April 1918: Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.

15 April 1962: Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

18 April 1983: One Marine Security Guard was killed and seven were wounded when a large car bomb exploded just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Lance Corporal Robert McMaugh was standing guard at Post 1, just inside the front entrance when the bomb exploded outside the door. The explosion killed 61 people including 17 Americans. LCpl McMaugh was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 April.

21 April 1951: Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. Captain Philip C. Delong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another in the heavily defended Pyongyang-Chinnanpo area. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the USS Bataan.

27 April 1805: First Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, who with seven other Marines was part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul William Eaton, raised the United States flag for the first time over a conquered fortress of the Old World at Derne, a stronghold of the Tripolitan pirates. Two Marines were killed and one wounded in the assault on the walled city.

28 April 1993: The last A-6E Intruder departed from Marine Corps service. Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 332 transferred the last Marine A-6E to St. Augustine, Florida, and prepared for the squadron's transition to the F/A-18D and eventual movement from Cherry Point to Beaufort, South Carolina.

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Applications for Membership: James Scott! Welcome aboard.

Members Sick or in Distress: Sr. Vice Debra Steele's son had ankle surgery due to skateboarding accident.

Report of Standing Committees:

<u>Toys for Tots</u>: Herb Donica reported that Ed Zaleski was appointed as the co-coordinator of the local Toys for Tots program for this year with the anticipation that he will be appointed as the head coordinator next year.

Rose Fund: No report.

<u>Poker Run</u>: Tommy Reichard said there was nothing to report at this time.

<u>Birthday</u>: Walt Raysick stated that the date for this year's celebration will be November 17th and that the cost of tickets will be a little higher that last years.

<u>Honor Guard</u>: Walt Raysick advised that the Honor Guard is committed to three events. April 14th, May 27th and 28th.

Young Marines: No report.

Picnic: John Bain said it will be this fall.

<u>Hot Dog Sales</u>: Walt Raysick stated that it is doing well and it is profitable.

Report of Special Committees:

<u>Conference Planning</u>: Peter White reported that a letter was sent out requesting a guest speaker. He also stated that the Clearwater Aquarium donated 100 free passes in exchange for a one page ad in the booklet.

<u>Group Ball Game</u>: Houston Tucker said that we have decided on the May 6th ball game. All interested please contact him for ticket information.

Unfinished Business: Second nominations and election of officers was held. Those elected are

Commandant: Debra Steele Sr. Vice: Bernie Kotrady Jr. Vice Sal Difonzo JA: Walt Raysick

New Business: None.

Good of the League: Jr. Vice Bernie Kotrady will set up a recruiting booth at the TAMPA Car & Truck show on April 21st from 1000 until 1500. Those volunteering to help were Tommy Richard, Dennis Antle and Dave Blizzard.

Walt Raysick read the MCL Commandants letter on members not participating in political activities while in MCL attire.

Announcements: John Bain reminder everyone that the next MCL breakfast at the VFW will be on April 15th

MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Sal DiFonzo

In March of 1967 just after turning turned 18, I received my draft notice. I didn't want to be drafted into the army and I really wasn't sure what branch of service I wanted to be in. My Dad was in the Navy and that was his recommendation for me. I wasn't all that excited about being out on the ocean on a large ship. I decided to join the Marines. My Dad was not happy, but he did wish me good luck. I talked to a Marine recruiter and he offered me the opportunity to work on Marine Aircraft if I enlisted for four years. I would be attending aviation structural school in Memphis, TN. after ITR.

In April of 1967 I arrived at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., An experience I never expected but soon accepted. I followed orders and graduated without incident. Actually, when I graduated in June, I did owe the senior drill instructor around 1,000 side straddle hops. Luckily, he let me slide.

In June of 1967 I completed my 4 weeks of ITR at Camp Lejuene, after this I went home to Boston for a few weeks. After my leave I reported to NAS Memphis for aviation structural mechanics school. For the next 6 weeks I trained on servicing the hydraulic systems of the A-F aircraft.

I graduated in September 1967 and received orders to Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point N.C. For the next seven months I worked on learning my job and servicing A-4 aircraft. Even though I enjoyed being stationed at Cherry Point, I really wanted to go to VietNam, I was craving for some excitement. I requested a transfer numerous times and finally, in April of 1968, I received orders for Viet Nam.

My family and friends were not as excited about me going to Viet Nam as I was. I was just pumped up about being a Marine and going to help in the war. When I arrived in DaNang in May of 1968, it was definitely a shock to my system. Not what I expected. It was hot, humid and it

smelled bad. After being processed I was assigned to the 1st Marine Air Wing maintenance squadron of MAG 12 in Chu-Lai, About 50 miles south of DaNang. Within the first few weeks our brand new PX was destroyed by a rocket barrage. Reality is setting in. While I was stationed at Chu Lai, I worked on the hydraulic systems of our TA4F's and since we were the Headquarters and maintenance squadron we worked on other Squadrons' aircraft as well. Quite often we had to borrow, beg, barter, and even make parts just to keep the aircraft flying.

When my time came to rotate home I was more than eager to leave. We were getting hit more frequently and with more intensity. During the TET offensive of 1969, We got hammered. The viet cong were walking rockets and mortar right down our flight line. We barely made it to our bunkers, which were located at the top of A revetment. I WAS, for the first time, really scared. The Viet Cong were actually getting more accurate with their aim. The final count for that day was devastating. If I recall correctly there were around 10 aircraft destroyed and 5-6 marines killed. I was counting down the days.

In June of 1969 I left Viet Nam behind. It was a great feeling. My family was really glad that I came home in one piece and so was I. We rarely talked about Viet Nam.

From July 1969 to March 1971 I was stationed at HQMC NAF Washington D.C. (Andrews, AFB) while there I serviced the T-33 shooting star jet trainer.

For free time we organized a football team and a softball team. We had to compete against 3 navy teams and 6 Air force teams. The football team was not that good, but the baseball team was pretty good. As I recall we came in first place in softball the first year.

After four years in the Marine Corps I was discharged in March 1971. For the past 14 years I have been working for Hillsborough County as a Substitute teacher. I have two beautiful daughters; Amanda who is 25 and Courtney who is 21.

May 2012

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831 Riverview, Florida 33568

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1900/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1900 hrs	2	3 SAL Mtg 1900	4	5	
6 Flea Market 0700 to 1200	7 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs	8	9 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog Sales	10	11 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	12	
13 Flea Market 0700 to 1200	14 Legion Mtg E- board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs	15	16 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog Sales	17	18 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	19	
20 MCL Breakfast @ VFW 8108 from 0900 to 1200 hrs	21	22	23 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales	24	25 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	26	
27 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hr	28	29	30	31			
		Look Ahead: June 14 th to June 16 th – Department of Florida Convention, Orlando, FL August 12 th – 18 th – National Convention Mobile, AL October 18 th to 20 th –Conference, Riverview, FL (hosted by our Detachment) For more information please email us at mclriverview.org.					

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