



Marine Corp League

Detachment 1226

Volume 29

July 2011

League Officers:

Commandant:

Sr. Vice Commandant:

Jr. Vice Commandant:

Adjutant:

Paymaster:

Judge Advocate:

Chaplain:

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Past Commandant:

Web Sergeant:

Newsletter Editor:

Historian:

Dennis Antle

Debra Steele

Bernie Kotrady

Jack Skelding.

Rob Becker

Walt Raysick

Dave Blizzard

George Mc Master

Jack Skelding

Bernie Kotrady

Debra Steele

Stan Horman

League Auxiliary

President:

Sr. Vice:

Jr. Vice:

Judge Advocate:

Chaplain:

Guard:

Pat Skelding

Cheryl Bain

Shanda Antle

Kamela Ryan

Barb Wolons

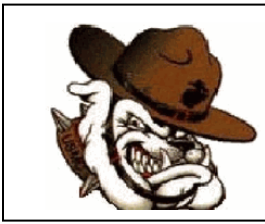
Mary Ann Raysick

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831

Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

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COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

Thank you to all that participated in the events for July and I look forward to seeing all of you at the August meeting. On August 21, 2011 we will be going to a Ray's ball game so we can get together without talking business. Just relax and enjoy the game with your fellow League members. For those that are interested please contact Houston Tucker.

We need to grow as a League. Help your elected officers help us grow. If you have any suggestions or comments that you know is keeping you or someone you know from participating in the monthly meetings or activities of the League, please do not hesitate to call me (Debra Steele). We want to hear from you. This is your League!

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant
For Dennis Antle, 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. *We are here for YOU!!!!*

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

Well Ladies Happy Fourth of July. Thanks to all the members that attended the Fourth of July parade in Brandon. We decided to take the month of July off for a meeting and instead we held our first sewing get-together. We have come up with some great ideas of what we would like to make and to be able to sell. If anyone has any ideas for us please let us know.

My thanks goes out to Bernie Kotardy for working on our very own webpage. As soon as we work it out I will let you know.

Jack & I will be traveling to Boise, ID for the Marine Corps League National Convention. The MCLA has many things to work on this year. One that will be

voted on is the increase in dues. I will not send out our dues reminders until I find out what it will be going up to. We didn't increase our dues last time that National went up but this time we will have to.

We will be holding a "Clean out the Container Party" sometime in August. I will let you know when. Let's make it fun and maybe get together afterward for dinner.

Also don't forget the day at the ballgame on August 21 to see the Rays. Houston Tucker is in charge so if you need tickets please see him.

We are still looking for ideas for our Auxiliary to make money so please bring them up at our meeting or call me at 813-672-1778. Remember we meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the VFW #8108 in Riverview.

Semper Fi
Pat Skelding

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

Our great members such as you guys are the ones who help us achieve our membership goals. Please go forth and seek new members.

Past due:

Bain, Jacob - January
Bell, Jeanne - September
Bennett, Kristine - February
Cox, Ronald - May
Grant, John - July
Martin, David - September
Miller, Everette G - January
Ramos, George - September
Regretta, Leonard Jr - January
Sepeda, Jason - October
Sirvent, Eric - December
Strom, Frank - June
Young, Steven - February

July 2011 Membership Expirations:
All paid for July

If anyone keeps in contact with the above past due members, please call them and ask them to renew their membership and if they do not want to renew their membership, please ask them why so that we can determine the reason for non-renewal of memberships.

New Members: None.

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 Rob Becker (813) 480-4281 or the league.

Detachment Recruitment Bonus.

A Detachment member signing up two (2) new members between now & the November membership meeting will gain free admission to our Annual Birthday event. If you sign-up three (3) three new members & receive a Detachment red shirt.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

There are plenty of activities to get involved in. Please do not feel that you have to be in all of them but please try to participate when you can. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do.

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

*Poker Run: We are looking for volunteers to start this committee for this year's event. This will be held in October or November this year. Keep an eye out for updates! We are currently awaiting word on whether or not the Legion Riders will be co-sponsoring again this year.

*Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Willie Little.

*Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter.

The League participated in the 4th of July Parade in Brandon.





WE ARE IN NEED of donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop off any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details. However, the yard sales have been suspended until after Labor Day.



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!!!!!!

Visit our Website at
www.mclriverview.org for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests.

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 (Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com).

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



**HALEY
HOUSE FUND, Inc.**

Dave Braun
Finance / Administration
Charter Board Member

Mobile: (813) 310-8513 Post Office Box 701
 Email: Prowler143@aol.com Brandon, FL 33509-0701
davebraun@haleyhousefund.org • www.haleyhousefund.org

—Support our Troops & Families—



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



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

www.supportourmarinesinc.org



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

We have had several meetings with the potential volunteers for this program and are continuing to do little more research to get things in order to get this program off of the ground. We now have the required amount of Registered Adult Volunteers and are finalizing the meeting spot and unit paperwork. A special Thank You to those that are volunteering their time to this program.

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant



MILITARY NEWS

Raid Force Trains to Seize Offshore Oil Platform July 13, 2011

Marine Corps News/by Lance Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, POINT MUGU, Calif. -- Marines and sailors trained to recapture an enemy-occupied gas and oil platform five miles off the coast of Carpinteria July 10 during the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's large-scale exercise with ocean and urban-based scenarios. The maritime raid force, supported by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element for the unit, and sailors from USS New Orleans, rehearsed several days before executing the raid.

This is the type of multi-faceted, complex training that will prepare our Marines for a successful deployment," said Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Compton, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the MRF. "We can always get better, but the actions of the individual Marines and sailors on the platform were decisive and thorough."

Compton, 30, is from Cleburne, Texas.

The raid force -- transported by CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters and Navy rigid-hull inflatable boats -- used fast-roping and ladder-climbing techniques to infiltrate the platform.

"Between our Navy brothers and sisters transporting us via boats and our aviation combat element's aerial isolation of the target site, the fight was over before it began," said Compton.

"This realistic training will prepare the MEU to be America's forward-deployed, forward-engaged force," said Col. Michael R. Hudson, the unit's commanding officer.

***Debt Fight Threatens Military Pay, Base Services
July 15, 2011***

[Stars and Stripes](#)/by Leo Shane III

WASHINGTON -- For the second time this year, a budget showdown between the White House and Republicans in Congress threatens to halt military paychecks, veterans benefits and base services, all while the wars overseas continue unabated. Treasury officials have said that Congress must approve an extension in the federal debt limit by Aug. 2 or risk potentially crippling shortfalls in money available to cover government obligations. The country hit the current debt ceiling of \$14.3 trillion in May, but creative bookkeeping and funding transfers have allowed federal operations to continue as leaders of the two political parties spar over how to move ahead.

Related story: [Military Pay Act, Casualty of Fiscal Battle](#)

Related story: [Troops: Why Consider Putting Military Pay at Risk?](#)

In the past, debt limit votes have been fairly routine for lawmakers, but Republicans in Congress this term have insisted on spending curbs before agreeing to any additional increases. Democrats have accused them of rejecting reasonable compromise plans, thereby threatening an unprecedented default by the U.S. government.

White House officials have not outlined exactly which bills will go unpaid, but White House Press Secretary Jay Carney has repeatedly included military paychecks and veterans benefits in his list of threatened items.

Earlier this year, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said that a failure to reach an agreement will mean that “a broad range of government payments would have to be stopped, limited or delayed, including military salaries and retirement benefits.”

But critics and outside experts remain skeptical that the White House will target military paychecks for cuts. Pamela Villarreal, senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, said officials will have some flexibility in deciding which bills to pay, “and a lot of what we’re hearing right now is just political.” According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington, the government will have about \$173 billion in revenue for August. But it will also have nearly \$307 billion in payment obligations, leaving a massive shortfall of about \$134 billion. Payments to cover Social Security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid, and debt owed on Treasury securities like bonds would total about \$128 billion, forcing the administration’s hand on most of the fiscal decisions. Experts agree that defaulting on those obligations could have serious long-term effects on the country’s credit rating and public reputation, potentially plunging the economy into an unprecedented financial nightmare.

That leaves about \$44 billion to cover more than \$178 billion in other bills. Villarreal notes that military paychecks for August will total \$2.9 billion, and veterans benefits roughly the same -- only a small fraction of the available cash.

“Nobody wants to disenfranchise the troops, so I think it’s highly unlikely we’ll see anything happen to military pay,” she said. “I think some of this talk is designed just to scare people.”

Still, the cuts will have to come from somewhere. If military and veterans payouts are protected, the Treasury might have to stop payments for unemployment benefits, defense vendor obligations or federal salaries. That last item, Villarreal said, would undoubtedly cause a partial government shutdown, similar to the situation threatened in April.

During that budget fight, Pentagon officials said equipment and operations for troops serving in overseas war zones would not be affected by a partial shutdown. But non-essential defense civilian employees would have been temporarily furloughed, while essential ones would work without pay. Military commissaries would be closed, temporary-

duty travel canceled and other base services forced to shut down or operate with fewer hours and personnel. Veterans Affairs officials said a partial shutdown would not stop any disability or education benefits from being sent out, or close any veterans hospitals. But new benefits claims would be completely stopped, veterans burials could be halted, and VA hotlines and regional offices would operate on an extremely limited basis.

Officials at the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs said they are monitoring the situation but have not yet made any announcements about possible program cuts or payout stoppages.

A pair of bills pending before Congress would mandate that military pay continue even in the case of a government shutdown or fiscal crisis, in response to troops' fears after the April threat.

Neither measure has advanced since then, but lawmakers have made another push at adopting the rule in recent days as the debt ceiling negotiations have faltered. In addition, 52 House Republicans sent a letter to the White House on Thursday demanding that military pay -- along with Social Security checks, Medicare payments and all interest payments -- remain unaffected if a deal is not reached.

On Wednesday, White House Spokesman Jay Carney said that the president had not made any decision on spending priorities because "we believe and take leaders in Congress at their word that action will be taken to prevent that from happening."

Email: If you received this by regular mail and have an email address, please contact me via email so we may add you to the list.

News from the League

At VA National Cemeteries, Families' Wishes Come First

Our focus at the National Cemetery Administration always has been and always will be on Veterans and their families—and how we can best serve them in their hour of need. VA operates 131 national

cemeteries across the country and conducts over 111,000 interments a year. In each case, the wishes of the Veteran's family come first. Families decide whether and what type of religious service will take place. More than 70 percent of NCA employees are Veterans, including me. We take seriously our Sacred Trust to honor Veterans and families with final resting places in national shrines. This includes meeting families' needs and respecting their wishes regarding their loved one's committal service. We cherish the religious freedoms our Veterans secured for us. At all VA national cemeteries, families are free to choose and use the burial rites and rituals that are meaningful or sacred to them. During interments, the name of God or Jesus is not only allowed, it is freely spoken at VA national cemeteries across the country. Families are equally free to have a service without religious references. Whatever type of service the family chooses for their loved one, we both share a common goal: to ensure a dignified, committal service worthy of their loved one's service and sacrifice to our Nation. VA national cemeteries are hallowed grounds in honor of all who have served and sacrificed on behalf of our Nation. VA ceremonies are inclusive and honor the faith traditions of all Veterans. I am proud that VA's national cemeteries are nationally-recognized for their commitment to excellence and top-rated customer satisfaction. For the past 10 years, the American Customer Satisfaction Index has rated VA National Cemeteries as the top-performing organization in the federal government. These high customer service satisfaction ratings are reflected every day by the service our employees and volunteers provide to Veterans and their families.

A career VA employee, Steve Muro is VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. He is also a Vietnam Veteran.

June 30, 2011 STATEMENT FROM VA PRESS SECRETARY JOSH TAYLOR

"Invoking the name of God or Jesus is not only allowed, it is common at VA National Cemeteries across the country. However, VA's policy is that VA-sponsored honor guards should not make

recitations at committal services unless requested to do so by the deceased's survivor(s)."

#Background: Attached are National Cemetery Administration policy documents. Both documents reiterate in policy that "NCA will allow the reading of recitations at the committal services, but will do so only if such recitations are requested by the deceased's survivors." The Houston policy also says, under #7: "Religious Services: On occasion, a family may request that a member of the Clergy provide a brief religious service. This may include a reading from scriptures or a brief prayer. If the family provides their own clergy, the honor team will not provide this service." It also says, and most importantly, under 8c that "NCA employees, including VA sponsored Volunteer Honor Guards, will not be selective in determining which recitations will be read. The deceased's survivor(s), and only they, will identify the text to be read. Subject to paragraph d, NCA will accept for reading at its committal services any such texts including those which reflect any, all or no religious traditions on an equal basis." Paragraph d then says the only limitations on texts, which do not include religion: "VA will not accept for reading any texts that would, as determined by the cemetery director, have an adverse impact on the dignity and solemnity of a cemetery honoring those who served the Nation. Among the texts that would not be read would be those that are obscene, racist, are "fighting words," or are coarse, abusive, or politically partisan."

Legislative Info.

I have gathered and summarized information regarding the recently ended State of FL Legislative session. There were several bill related to Veteran's submitted, in excess of 50, but only 6 that were passed and have or will become law.

For a full summary or text refer to the HB or SB number provided:

A Florida Veterans Hall of Fame will be established in the state Capital. Re: HB 0465

Gold Star Parents and Spouses of Vets KIA will be honored with free lifetime entrance to the 160 Florida State Parks. Re: HB 0095

Special recreational areas will be established in state forest for service disabled veterans to be able to hunt. Re: HB 0663

A person's status as a veteran may be displayed on a Florida driver license or ID card for a small fee and proof of the veteran's status with a DD214 military discharge document. Re: HB 1165

Allows active duty (incl. reserves) personnel that are deployed to receive a reduction of their FL property taxes for the time served in a combat area upon application and approval. SB 0592

Allows a voluntary contribution which goes to the DAV by anyone receiving or renewing their FL driver's license

Other Information:

* The State House traditionally convenes in the spring of each year (usually April and May) for 60 days. However next year will convene in January to take up the topic of redistricting. Ideas, bills, and proposals will be received by your elected representatives as early as the fall. Contact your representative for exact details

*Two very helpful web sites to research legislation and proposals and information are: myfloridahouse.gov and floridavets.org

* If you are unsure who your elected representatives are (both State Senator and/or State Representative) you can contact your county Elections Supervisor for that information.

*I will be attending the FL House public workshop this fall in Marion County and will pass along items of importance to the MCL Commandant.

Thank you for your interest in legislative issues and especially the Marine Corps League.

MARINE TIDBITS:



restorative water bestowed by the beast, they affirmed, as though with a warriors' toast of raised aluminum cups & canteens, the newest & hardest-won symbol of the Corps: *Teufelhunden* ~ *Devil Dogs* ~ *Bulldogs of the Marne*.

Now that this stirring portrait has been painted, it must be confessed that nothing of the sort ever occurred. Though the Marines took Belleau Wood in late June, 1918, Belleau itself was captured not by the Marine Brigade, but by the 26th Division some three weeks later, by which time the Marines were fighting & dying at Soissons. How and when the "bulldog fountain" actually entered into the mythology of the Corps remains something of a mystery.

This moss-banked fountain in the heart of the ancient village of Belleau, France, has become ~ by a quirk of history ~ a central symbol in the lore of the U.S. Marine Corps. The iconography of the fountain, of course, greatly predates the arrival of the Marines in 1918. The "bulldog" of the fountain is, in fact, a bull mastiff, doubtless one of the hunting mastiffs for which the Chateau of Belleau was famous. It was to this same Chateau of Belleau which Belleau Wood, *Bois de Belleau*, belonged by tradition. The cold & pristine water which gushes from the mastiff's mouth is the "beautiful water", *belle eau*, for which the village itself was named. When the Marines took Belleau Wood from the Germans in June, 1918, they had just been dubbed *Teufelhunden*, "devil dogs", by their opponents, a soubriquet which the Leathernecks quite cheerfully adopted. Almost at once, depictions of fierce helmeted hounds began appearing on recruiting posters and even in the letters of the Marines themselves. And so it was that when the first Marines entered the shattered, abandoned village of Belleau, begrimed by battle & the unrelenting heat, they must have greeted the sight of this venerable canine with particular delight. For not only, in the wake of their fiercest battle to that time, could they luxuriate in the clear & cooling stream, slaking thirst & swabbing their steaming necks, but, in the very act of replenishment, in a ritualistic partaking of

Another item which was submitted to the League for our Navy Corpsman: Enjoy!

I am a Navy Corpsman:

I possess the stamina and enthusiasm of youth and the wisdom and experience of an old man.

I am three parts Doctor, one part Nurse, two parts Marine, one part Yeoman, and three parts Mom, yet I am 100% Sailor.

I am unemployable to the civilian world in my given profession, yet have been the very life line for countless Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors since 1778.

I have carried Marines from the battlefield... and have been carried reverently myself by Marines who mourned my passing like that of a brother or sister.

I am young. I am old. I am brave. I am scared. I am scarred.

My title has changed over the years: Loblolly Boy, Surgeons Stewart, Pharmacist Mate, Hospital Corpsman, Independent Duty Corpsman yet with all the changes, I am still simply known as "Doc".

I have celebrated peace; yet felt the sting of war on the seas, in jungles, in foreign cities, in Washington, D.C., and on the beaches of every shade of sand... white, tan, coral, and black.

I have raised hell on liberty; hope in the midst of battle... and Old Glory on Iwo Jima.

I have removed appendixes on submarines and limbs in the midst of battle, and many other procedures far and beyond what I am expected to do by the normal practice of medicine, because it had to be done in order to save the life of a Marine or Sailor in battle or under the ice, far from a doctor's care.

I have ignored my own wounds to the point of death in order to stay at my station treating the wounded of my Nation's Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force.

I have the highest number of Medals of Honor of any Corps in the Navy... Most of them presented to my wife, child, or mother because I was already dead at the time.

I am proud to know in my heart that every Marine who has fought and every Sailor who has gone to sea on ships owe their very lives to those they simply, yet respectfully know as "Doc".

Phil "Doc" Stern
Marine Corps League(MCL) National VAVS Deputy Representative,
MCL VAVS Certifying Official

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Applications for Membership:

Salvatore DiFonzo. Please help welcome him into the League.

Members Sick or in Distress:

None.

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: No report.

Rose Fund: Willie Little reported the Rose Fund is in abeyance for the summer. It will start back up in September with three dates to be conducted by the end of the year.

Poker Run: Debra Steele reported the Legion Riders will be voting on participation in the near future. She will be sending out more letters to businesses.

Birthday: Walt Raysick reported no changes. Date still is on for 12 November and the cost remains \$10.00 per head. Debra Steele is working on obtaining guest speakers.

Honor Guard: Participated in Korea War Memorial Service 25 June; will participate in the Field of Honor Ceremony, Veterans memorial Park, 9 July

Young Marines: Debra Steele states she still needs help. She now has Nicole Hernandez, Mike Sherman, Ed Zawaleski to assist her getting the program up and running.

Picnic: No report.

Report of Special Committees:

Conference Planning: Peter White and Jack Skelding are awaiting for the inspection of the facilities to be completed. The request has been submitted. The

inspection results will determine the approval and feasibility of conducting/hosting the conference.

Group Ball Game: Planning is on track. Some reservations have been received. A motion was made by Houston Tucker to go ahead and obtain the 20 tickets required to obtain the group rate. Any unsold tickets would be used to sponsor wounded Marines from the Haley House to attend the ball game with our group. Motion accepted by Walt Ryan and seconded by Ed Zawaleski. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

The upcoming yearly budget for July 1 2011 thru June 30 2012 was submitted. The new budget of \$11,000.00 was \$150.00 higher than last year's budget. Willie Little stated his desire to increase the budget for local scholarships.

Good of the League:

The Detachment was awarded the MCL Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) at the Department Conference.

Announcements:

The report on the Department Conference was deferred until the August meeting by Debra Steele. The next Detachment 1226 MCL meeting will be conducted 2 August.

HERO OF THE MONTH



BUFFALO, N.Y. - Marine Sergeant Mark A. Bradley from Cuba, New York died on Thursday after sustaining serious injuries while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

Marine Sgt. Bradley, 25, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Sgt. Bradley was a 2003 graduate of Cuba-Rushford High School. The athletic director Gary White, tells 2 On Your Side's Patrick Moussignac the Marine was injured on June 6th and died Thursday. He added Sgt. Bradley still has an aunt and uncle living in Cuba.

White says he's known Sergeant Bradley for years, and was saddened when he heard the news.

"It's just tragic. I just, he was such a good kid. You just wonder why," said White.

Bradley is expected to be buried in Tampa, Florida.

His wife Samantha told us how she wants her husband to be remembered.

"He was just a great friend to everybody. He was a wonderful son, the best brother that his family could've asked for, and not only was he my husband, he was definitely my best friend."

According to the Wall Street Journal, Sgt. Bradley was injured by an improvised explosive device.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has directed all flags on state government buildings to be flown at half-staff on Tuesday, June 21st in honor of the Marine.

"On behalf of the people of New York, I want to express my sympathy to the family, friends and fellow Marines of Sgt. Bradley," said the governor. "As we mourn the loss of this young Marine from western New York, we honor and remember his service to our nation."

Blog: Sir, My name is Gunnery Sergeant Marshall Gregg and I was Mark's first squad leader and later his platoon sergeant in his first unit: Echo Company, 2/8. Mark served as rifleman, saw gunner and finally as team leader in my last combat deployment with the unit and was one of the best infantrymen that I have ever known. He was a great man and a phenomenal Marine. His death is a huge blow to myself and to this great organization as a whole. He is a hero and a true professional. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and the entire family. It was an honor to serve with such a great person. Semper Fidelis. -Gunny Gregg

Blog: My name is Sgt Ullman. I did 2 tours with Sgt Bradley in 2/8 Echo and had many fun times with him in Jacksonville down to Myrtle beach. Was a great guy. I'm truly sorry for your loss. Please keep us updated on the funeral for I would like to take leave to come and show my respect to the wife and family. RIP brother, Semper Fi

Excerpts taken from various websites.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:



"No one is prepared for the mental and physical strain that is experienced immediately upon arriving at the scene, regardless of the training he or she has received.... The newness of war disappeared very quickly once we saw our first casualties, both friend and foe, and set our mind to the fact that our old life was over and we had entered a new era."

- George McMaster

I was at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June, 1950, when the North Koreans attacked South Korea. Our company was assembled on the second floor of our barracks and our company commander, Captain T. Burns, made the announcement that the North Koreans had invaded South Korea early that morning, but that very little information was available at that time. He indicated that it was a very serious situation and that we all could be affected. He said that additional information would be passed on as it was received and authenticated. The scuttlebutt was unbelievable. In fact, most of the guys hadn't the slightest idea where Korea was. I personally knew very little about Korea except its location in relation to Japan and that a Marine Battalion had captured the forts in the Inchon area around 1870 or '71 in reprisal for treatment of American merchant seamen captured at sea. The Japanese had occupied Korea for many years, building most of its industrial complex in the northern areas. I also knew about the Russian declaration of war against Japan near the end of World War II and their invasion of Korea to reap the spoils at no cost to themselves. I was aware that North Korea was industrial and that South Korea was agricultural. Nothing was known of the people, their philosophies, etc.

Orders were issued in late July to report for active duty on August 8, 1950, destination unknown, but it didn't take an MIT graduate to figure out where.

We reported early that evening. My family, as well as families of all other members, were present when we were ordered to fall in and official orders were read to all hands, advising us that we would board buses parked outside for transit to Union Station, downtown Chicago. From there a special troop train would take my Reserve Battalion en masse to Camp Pendleton, California. Once there, we would be further processed and assigned to our new units. The names of several of our newest members were called and they were advised that since they had less than one year in the reserve, they would be immediately assigned to San Diego, California, for boot camp upon our arrival at Camp Pendleton. This was the only time during the first stages of our going active that boot camp was mentioned while I was present. The rest of us were never asked about or had a choice to request basic boot camp training.

We said our goodbyes and boarded the buses for the train station. At this time our company, like most reserve units across the country, was at approximately two-thirds strength since interest in the military had declined and many of the older veterans had transferred to the inactive reserves or had just gotten out. The bus ride was rather quiet and only took 45 minutes or so to reach the train station. The full impact of our situation had finally reached home in most of our minds. We boarded the train and were assigned seats and berths. We were on Pullman cars, which were quite comfortable. After all the other units of the battalion arrived and boarded, together with our sea bags and other gear which were placed in baggage cars, the train pulled out, heading southwest.

We were allowed to bring one carry-on bag. It contained field dungarees, underwear, shaving gear, reading material, and in most cases, some spirits in case of snakebite. One officer who was assigned to each car to maintain order and conduct training classes while en route, it was the senior NCO in each car who ran things. Most of the officers had state rooms and/or compartments, the size of which went according to rank. They were located in other sections of the train and we seldom saw them.

The trip took four days, which was longer than the distance would usually take. Since we were a special train, we were often placed on a siding while a scheduled freight or passenger train passed us. This was not too bad. We were allowed to get off, stretch our legs, and talk to the

locals if we were in a town. The people were very friendly, supportive, and included many veterans from World War II, who wished us luck. The Salvation Army, American Legion, VFW, and others came out with drinks and snacks if we spent a little time in one area. The most enterprising of the group could always find a way into town and come back with some beer or stronger beverages.

I was assigned Sergeant of the Guard the second night out, which included the whole train. I had no problems to speak of, except I couldn't decide who made the most noise--officers or enlisted men. It was understood that moderate drinking was allowed, but if anyone got out of line it was stopped, so everyone policed themselves. Dining cars provided three great meals per day. In short, we had a memorable train ride to the West Coast. Since most of us had never been past the Mississippi River, we enjoyed the change of scenery.

We arrived at Camp Pendleton the morning of August 12. We bid farewell to the boys going to boot camp, were assigned to barracks, collected our sea bags, and settled in for a short stay. The next few days were spent taking physical examinations, getting additional shots, being issued new ID cards, signing up for GI insurance, arranging for allotments to be sent home, the issuing of additional clothes, cleaning barracks, going to the mess hall for meals, and waiting for something to happen. Since I had recently been promoted to sergeant, I had the roll of delegating and observing. I was not a worker, but this changed drastically after we arrived in Korea.

Camp Pendleton was a mad house. During the physical exams, If we were warm under the arm pits, we were assigned to a combat unit. On August 17, a number of reserve units from various parts of the country, including ours, were assembled on one of the parade grounds and each individual present was called by name and advised to report to a posted assembly area in the vicinity. My name and several others from our Chicago battalion were called fairly early and upon reporting to the officer in charge, we were instructed to return to our barracks, gather all of our personal belongings, pack, and report back in one hour. We were being transferred to the 7th Marine Regiment which was forming at Tent Camp II.

Upon arriving at Tent Camp II, we were met and welcomed by a senior NCO. Our personnel records and other materials had been sent on ahead, so we were already on file at Regimental Headquarters. Our names were called again and several others and I were assigned to Dog

Company, 2nd Battalion. We reported to Company Headquarters and I was assigned as squad leader, 3rd Rifle Platoon. Our Platoon Leader was a 2nd Lieutenant and a reservist like myself, but the platoon sergeant was a regular Marine. He was a great help in getting settled in. Initially my squad consisted of only eight men. Half were regulars and the remainder were reservists who had just arrived. The squad was eventually brought up to full strength (13 men broken down into three four-man fire teams, plus myself). I assigned the regulars as fire team leaders--two corporals and one PFC, even though the PFC would be over a reserve corporal in his fire team. This was approved by my platoon leader and sergeant. Everyone got along and worked together with no problems.

The next twelve days were spent being issued weapons, field equipment, field training, and live firing. All excess personal clothing, etc. was packed and shipped home. We were allowed one sea bag, which was stuffed with as much clothing and other items as we thought necessary, plus the usual extra clothing and gear that was normally carried in our field transport packs. Evenings, if we were not out in the field and sleeping on the ground, were spent cleaning, walking the half mile to the outdoor theater, picking up our allotted two cans of beer for 25 cents, and trying to beat the sunset while taking an outdoor shower. If we were still in the shower when the sun went down, it seemed like a 50-degree drop in temperature in a matter of seconds. It got cold, even though this was still August. But everything in California is strange. Thinking back over the years, I think the chow was about as bad at Tent Camp II as anywhere I served. But taking into consideration the camp had just reopened after closing at the end of World War II and the Regiment was just forming, I suppose they did the best they could.

On August 29, 1950, we were instructed to pack all gear and be ready that afternoon to board trucks and buses for San Diego Naval Base. I was able to call home and speak to my mother for a few minutes to let her know what we were doing, and with a lump in my throat, I said goodbye. We were transported late that afternoon to San Diego and immediately boarded ship.

If you want to read more of George's Memoirs please visit www.Koreanwar-Educator.org and click on Memoirs then search for his name.

There are many fascinating stories to be read.

USE BORDER CUT LINE FOR FITTING 8X10

AMBUSH TIME

"Inspired by the Vietnam war."
 "Devoted to all who serve."

By: Domenic Carota

On patrol in this darkened hot forest jungle,
 exhausted, no sleep in two days and a night.
 I see only bombs exploding near by,
 to bring in that short burst of light.

The jungle drone of buzzing sounds I hear,
 and a slew of other noises, in my ear.
 The crackling movement amongst the trees,
 could this be the sounds of my enemies?

I'm anxious and I'm scared,
 Inside my troubled mind.
 Pondering if this night could be,
 my ambush time.

My rifle fully armed and loaded,
 with a clip of bullet rounds full.
 My finger ready on the trigger,
 knowing I must keep it ready to pull.

Still, I patrol here staring into the night,
 for movement with my brothers in arms.
 Waiting for that sudden moment of terror,
 when the chaos, replaces the calm.

My thoughts of family and being home,
 I must now clear from my mind.
 I must focus on killing my enemy,
 making it their ambush time.

There's no time to think about me right now,
 or, how my future will derive.
 For now I must fight here with my brothers,
 to try and keep us all alive.

If this should be the fatal night,
 that that final battle calls.
 Will my future be forgotten and lost,
 and only found etched on a granite wall?

But, I'll continue to fight for my country,
 so you all home can be safe and free.
 I'll shed my blood and give my life,
 even for those who disagree.

I'll gladly fight here in this jungle,
 with the stench of death all around.
 If it will mean freedom for all back home,
 In every city and town.

But, I want you to understand and know,
 I'm not here fighting all alone.
 For I am here with my brave brothers,
 fighting the enemy, our foe.

Many a soldier has fought before me,
 and many a soldier has paid the price.
 But for the United States of America,
 I see no more worthy sacrifice.

Some may wonder why we had to be here,
 to my brothers and I, it's abundantly clear.
 It's for God, country and freedom we care,
 so all can enjoy, and all can share.

So, as for my brother soldiers and I,
 we'll continue fighting here in our prime.
 Praying to God we'll make it through,
 hoping it's not our ambush time.

Support Our Troops

**DEDICATION**

This poem is dedicated to all those who serve,
 or have served in any branch of our military.
YOU are our heroes. We salute you. All of us
 must support these warrior heroes. They're the
 reason for **OUR** freedom. If you don't want to
 stand behind our troops. Please feel free to
 stand in front of them.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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 WWW.DOMENICCAROTA.COM

SEE MORE OF DOMENIC CAROTA'S MUSIC AND POETRY AT WWW.DOMENICCAROTA.COM

This poem was composed by the brother of my Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant John Carota, who was killed in action on the 6th of September 1967. John had been seriously wounded some five months before the action that ended his life. Previously John had been shot through the neck but recovered in the hospital in Japan, and he requested to be returned to his unit, Kilo Company, 3rd battalion 5th Marines. He had returned to Kilo 3/5 in August. Sergeant John Carota was the best of the best of Marines and he died courageously while engaged in hand-to-hand combat. John's brother Domenic Carota has dedicated his life to honoring the memory of his heroic brother and the Marines who fought alongside him. Domenic is an accomplished author and musician, and I'm very proud to say he is my friend." Dave Blizzard, 4 July 2011.



August 2011

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs	2 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1930/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	3 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	4	5 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	6 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
7 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	8 Legion Mtg E-board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs	9	10 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	11	12 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	13 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
14 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	15	16	17 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	18	19 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	20 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
21 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	22	23	24 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	25	26 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	27 Car Wash @ Legion 1000 hrs Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
28 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	29	30	31 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs			
	Look Ahead: October – Poker Run and Convention November 5 th – Marine Corps Ball @ Hyatt November 10 th – Marine Corps Birthday November 12 th – Marine Corps Birthday Celebration					

Look Ahead: