



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET

Happenings Behind the Pine Curtain

“Stay Connected, Stay Involved, and Make a Difference
Through Your Marine Corps League”

Pineywoods Detachment
1189

Volume 2, Issue 2

August 2008

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The Marine Corps League in Texas is active, and actively growing. Everyone knows that this is a big state, so it is no surprise that Department Commandant Harry Bruce has help to cover it all. The Department chain-of-command includes Senior Vice Commandant Bob Quinn and Junior Vice Commandant Ken Henry, but in addition to those folks, the Department is further sub-divided. Administratively, the Department of Texas is divided into seven districts, each is administered by a Vice Commandant who reports directly to the Department Commandant.

District 2 is the district in which Pineywoods Detachment finds itself. It is comprised of the area from Dallas north to the Oklahoma border, east to Louisiana, and south to Angelina County. In that area, there are currently eight detachments of the League. They are Texoma in Denton, Lugo in Denison, Yancey and Big “D” in Dallas, Kaufman County in Crandall, Mineola in Mineola, Longview in Longview, and Pineywoods in Nacogdoches. The District 2 Vice Commandant (DVC) is Dennis Bradford.

There are also several cities in which Marines have taken the initial steps to establish a detachment. A group in Terrell is almost complete and should receive their charter in the near future, while other groups are in the formative stages in the Wills Point and MaBank areas. Preliminary talks have begun in Lufkin as well.

The District Vice Commandant visits each detachment within his area as often as possible to meet with detachment officers and members. He serves as liaison between the detachments and the department. When questions arise, it is the DVC either answers the question or contacts the Department to find the answer. It is a simple and efficient system.

Another responsibility of the DVC is, once each year, to hold a District Conference open to all the members of the district. Consequently, a District 2 conference is scheduled for 20 September and will be held at the Texas State Guard Armory in Terrell, Texas. It will be an opportunity to meet with other groups and to exchange information. There will also be formal training sessions on such topics as “Recruiting and Retention,” “Fundraising,” and “Detachment Administration and Paperwork.”

If you have questions, contact your District Vice Commandant and make plans to attend the District 2 Conference on 20 September. It will be informative and is a chance to see who else is involved in the Marine Corps League. Semper Fi!



AUGUST MEETING:

21st

The Author is unknown:
“A veteran, whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve, is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to ‘The United States of America,’ for an amount ‘up to and including my life.’ That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”

Commandant

Senior Vice Commandant

Junior Vice Commandant

Judge Advocate

Adjutant

Paymaster

Chaplain

Sergeant-at-Arms

Junior Past Commandant

Dan Singletary

Dennis Bradford

Jimmy Lee

Phil Devlin

Will Lane

Rob Zurfluh

Ken Rains

Rich Barnhart

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ENLISTMENT WAIVERS UPDATE

In July, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the nation celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the All Volunteer Force (AVF). Since its inception, our volunteer military has upheld the traditions of strong and selfless service to the nation. Presently, more than 1.4 million men and women choose to serve on active duty, along with nearly 1.1 million members of the National Guard and Reserves. DoD announced changes 27 JUN to improve the enlistment screening process by standardizing enlistment criteria and generating uniform reporting of waiver types across all services. The most noticeable change to the policy is in the area of conduct waivers. Previously, each service categorized offenses differently, making it impossible to provide reliable comparisons across services, over time. Under the new policy all conduct offenses will be classified into one of four different categories. The most severe offenses will be classified as "major misconduct," while less severe offenses will be considered "misconduct," "non-traffic," or "traffic" offenses. Also new is a coding system allowing services to track the level of the misconduct and the specific offense in question. Recent research suggests patterns of smaller offenses such as underage drinking and curfew violations are often more problematic over a career than a single major youthful offense such as burglary, which is the most common offense in the "major misconduct" category.

About one in five recruits receives exceptional admission to the military by means of a waiver. About one third are for medical waivers- most frequently for high body fat - and nearly two thirds involve youthful misconduct waivers. The standardization of data will allow the department to better analyze the relationship between offenses or categories of offense on the one hand, and attrition or performance concerns on the other. This new policy, will go into effect on 1 OCT 08, does not prohibit further changes in the management of the military's screening for service in the armed forces, but it does represent another affirmative step in sustaining the pattern of success that has come to characterize AVF. Today's AVF is highly educated with nearly 95%t of recruits holding a high school diploma, compared to about 75% of contemporary youth. Moreover, two thirds are drawn from the top half of American youth in math and verbal aptitude. The new policy can be viewed online at

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/d20080627DTM08-018%20Final%20Signed%20compressed.pdf>. [Source: DoD News release No.560-08 dtd 2 Jul 08]

MARINE QUOTE: "Casualties many; Percentage of dead not known; Combat efficiency: we are winning!" COL. DAVID M. SHOUP, USMC

"Where liberty dwells, there is my country." Benjamin Franklin 1783



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Think what you will of Ronald Regan and his politics but most cannot dispute the following comments of his regarding our government:

- 'Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose.'
- 'The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'
- 'The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so.'
- 'Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.'
- 'I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.'
- 'The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination.'
- 'Government is like a baby: An alimentary ca-

nal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.'

- 'The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.'
- 'It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.'
- 'Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.'
- 'Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.'

[Source: Words of wisdom by Margaret Gee 2001]

LOCAL MAN CLOSER TO DREAM

LUFKIN UNIT OF THE YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE SOON A REALITY

Former Marine Matt Schmidt of Lufkin has a dream. He wants to start a unit of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League. The organization is designed to keep young people between the ages of 8 and 20 out of trouble by providing quality youth development programs that nurture and develop members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Schmidt said they hope to up-and-running within a month or two. "The adult leaders have completed their applications, which contains information necessary for the background check, and we'll be forwarding the application packet in the next week or so," he added.

"We have met with the school district, the police department, and others. Everyone is very supportive. We are anxious to get started.

Schmidt reports that the meetings will be held at the National Guard Armory in Lufkin and , so far, the response has been very good. He will keep the Pineywoods Detachment in the loop as they get closer to their charter.



Pineywoods detachment "goodies are now available from two sources for those who want to wear our colors proudly. All manner of items are available from **Café Press** at <http://www.cafepress.com/pwm1189b>. These items are "printed" on the clothing or hat.

Embroidered clothing and hats, as well as backpacks and portable stadium seats and other goodies are available in Nacogdoches at **Unlimited Designs** on NW Stallings Drive, next to License to Laugh, the defensive driving folks. It is also possible to have the embroidery sewn on the MCL red uniform cover there. Pricing is reasonable, and Kim Cartwright and staff are most helpful. Keep it local!

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."-- John Adams (Defense of the Constitutions, 1787)



LOCAL MEMBER AT WORK IN IRAQ

SECURITY COMPANY "MISFITS" ENSURE MARINES, VEHICLE GET TO THE FIGHT

[Written by Cpl. G. P. Ingersoll]

AL-QAIM, Iraq – It wasn't the improvised explosive device which detonated on the patrol route, or the add-on mission that had Sgt. Kevin W. Fennel impatient at 8:30 p.m., Aug 4.

Fennel, convoy commander, just wanted his interpreter back. Despite unforeseen delays and the ever-changing nature of Marine Corps missions in the al-Anbar Province, Fennel and the "Misfit" Marines of 1st Squad, Security Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group successfully and safely delivered a group of tank operators and their M-88 Tank Retriever to al-Qaim.

Eventually the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines who responded to the IED extracted enough information from nearby Iraqi Police, and returned Fennel's interpreter. That wasn't until the "Misfit's" five gun trucks had posted security for approximately 45 minutes.

"At least they caught the trigger man," Fennel, 27, Glenn St. Mary, Fla., said. Fennel and his Marines run security missions almost every day. Security Co., handles everything from route reconnaissance, to personal security, to regular resupply operations. This run in particular carried a somewhat unique cargo.

"We're heading up to (Al Qaim) to drop of two trucks full of tanker guys and an M-88," said Lance Cpl. Axel G. Alicea, 24, Berlin, Conn. The tanker Marines used Transportation Support Co., for a ride and Security Co., to ensure their arrival near the Syrian border.

The border is a "key point for insurgents," said Lance Cpl. Marc T. Prudom, 21, East Rochester, N.Y. "They could easily get through the border in some places, so by pushing out and making these outer posts, (the tank operators) can keep an eye on the border to make sure that doesn't happen." Without the M-88, the other half of the squad's mission, the tankers would have a harder time keeping insurgents and weapons from crossing into Iraq.

"(The M-88) directly corresponds to combat readiness," said 1st Lt. Jeff M. Holt, 29, Camp Lejeune, platoon commander, Company A, 4th Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, 1st Marine Division. "If the tanks are not up to speed, maintenance-wise, we are completely ineffective."

The M-88 and its operators can repair a damaged tank in the field, on the spot, without calling back for support. Without it, tank operators would have to dismount their vehicles to perform awkward field maintenance, exposing them to enemy small arms fire. The M-88 indirectly protects Marines and enables timely mission accomplishment, but first, the Marines of Security Co., have to make sure it gets to the fight.

"Our primary mission is the safety of this convoy," said Fennel, "so that the M-88 and the tankers can successfully conduct counter insurgency operations, running missions out of al-Qaim to help keep insurgents away from the border." Executing the mission is the "Misfits" bread-and-butter, Fennel said. Preparing for the mission is tedious, but once they're out on the road, everything comes naturally, he said.

"Get up early, test fire, and get all the trucks ready for the day. Get all the radios in the truck, get them working," said Alicea, listing his pre-mission duties. As soon as the unit leaves the wire, it's all business.

"Run into any problems, get through it, finish the mission, get to the next base, and call it a day," said Alicea, radio operator, Security Co.

Pineywoods Detachment member 1stSgt John Mathews is currently serving in Iraq and is the Marine who sent the United States flags flown in Iraq to all Veterans organizations in Nacogdoches.

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Al-mighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

—Patrick Henry, to the Virginia Legislature, 23 March 1775



VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

By Dan Singletary

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that on-line applications are now accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.

Effective immediately, VA will now process applications received through its on-line application website (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP (www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm) is a Web-

based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints

of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

VONAPP reduces the number of incomplete applications received by VA, decreasing the need for additional development by VA claims processors. The on-line application also provides a link to apply for VA health care benefits and much more.

Over 3.7 million veterans and beneficiaries receive compensation and pension benefits from VA and approximately 523,000 students receive education benefits. Approximately 90,000 disabled veterans participate in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.

For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's website at www.va.gov <<http://www.va.gov>> or call our toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000.

As you can see, Pineywoods has a full schedule of events for all member MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Detachment 2008 MEETINGS

21 August
18 September
16 October
20 November
18 December

2009 MEETINGS

15 January
19 February
***Nomination of Officers**
19 March
***Election of Officers**
16 April
***Installation of Officers**
21 May
18 June
16 July
20 August

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION

10-16 August 2008
Orlando, Florida

DISTRICT 2 MEETING

Terrell Texas State Guard Armory
20 September 2008
All Members Invited

SEMPER FI!

CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

4 October 2008
Woodland Hills Golf Club

FALL STAFF MEETING

9-12 October 2008
Woodlands, Texas

2008 MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

8 November 2008

Fredonia Hotel

Nacogdoches, Texas

**Make your plans now to
join us!**

As more information becomes available about these and additional events it will appear in future issues of your newsletter. If you have events of interest to the Detachment, contact the editor.



"The name of American, which belongs to you... must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism."
George Washington

"It is the duty of every good citizen to use all the opportunities which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country."
Thomas Jefferson



Marine Corps History

9 August 1942: With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure after heavy fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, on 12 August, the first plane landed on Henderson Field, a Navy PBY which evacuated two wounded Marines. Nearly 3,000 wounded Marines would be evacuated from Henderson Field during the battle.

21 August 1968: PFC James Anderson, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, for heroism in Vietnam while serving as a rifleman with Company F, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines in February 1967. This was the first Medal of Honor presented to an African-American Marine. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, Sr., received the award during ceremonies at Marine Barracks, 8th and I.

24 August 1814: Captain Samuel Miller's 100-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges, Captain Miller was wounded and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. The Marines lost 8 killed and 14 wounded.

Life Membership Honor Roll

The following Detachment members are Life Members

Rich Barnhart - Betty Benavides
Dennis Bradford - Chris Borel
Strimple Coyle - Roger Crone
Phil Devlin - Billy Duke
Don Kirkley - Dale Koonce
Buck Lee - James Lee
Jarrie Love - Jack Noble
Jack Sanderson - Dan Singletary
Joe Stewart
Semper Fi!

CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership Dues

National Marine Corps League Website

Age Grp	Current	As of 01/01/09
0-35	\$400	\$500
36-40	\$350	\$400
41-50	\$350	\$400
51-60	\$250	\$300
61-over	\$125	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing." That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues, and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

BIRTHDAYS

The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in **AUGUST**

**Roger Crone
Phil Devlin
Ed Klein**

Happy birthday and many happy returns!

Also, apologies to any we have missed.