

Leatherneck News

Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Upcoming Events

- 5 February 2010—Membership Blitz Jasper American Legion 5-7 PM.
- 5 February 2010—Marine Family Support Group Social, 6:15, Jasper American Legion
- 11 February 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 12 February 2010-Membership Blitz Jasper VFW 5-7 PM.
- 18 February 2010-Regular Meeting of the Detachment , 7 PM. **Nominations for Elected Officers**
- 19 February 2010—Membership Blitz Huntingburg VFW 5-7 PM.
- 6-7 March 2010—Department of Indiana Spring Conference, Marion, IN.
- 8-11 April 2010—Central Division Conference, Westlake Oh. **Deadline 1 March 2010.** Contact Commandant for details.
- 8-14 August 2010—MCL National Convention, Greensboro, NC. Go to WWW.MCL2010.ORG for more info.
- 21 August 2010—3rd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

Membership Blitz *by Junior Vice Ed Herzog*

The 'membership blitz' has reached the halfway point, with additional radio interviews, spots, and media ads to follow. Thus far we have received some favorable response from the recent interview heard on WITZ radio, however our Friday evening meet & greet sessions have yet to attract a great deal of interest, or the desired results, we nonetheless are being noticed.

The public has been aware of our presence as we have received a number of comments from those who have seen us in the various locations in our modified undress uniforms of red blazers, black trousers, and detachment red cover. A number of individuals have expressed the fact that the selected dress uniforms were very impressive and looked extremely sharp.

On a more positive note, the near one-half page spread photo that appeared in the local paper depicting several of the detachment's associate members receiving their membership pins has garnered a great deal of attention. It seems like the principle subject James Vonderheide, who incidentally had been voted upon and accepted as a new member

just prior to taking the oath and undergoing the initiation process, has received numerous copies of the photo from many of his fellow employees and friends who had clipped the photos, brought them to him and have raised the question of 'why the big grin, what on earth was so humorous at the time that all present in the photo were obviously enjoying a brief moment of laughter.

It goes to show that exposure to the public, whether it be from appearances at military functions, parades, radio interviews, or media photos such as mentioned, are a great deal of benefit to our organization, in that the public becomes more and more aware of our presence in the community.

As far as those who might be wondering what actually took place that triggered the gleeful response shown in the photo, we can only say, "you just had to be there" to fully enjoy the moment. (Another good reason for the general membership to attend the regular meetings.)

Rites of Initiation held during January Meeting

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A total of eleven, (7) regular and (4) associate members were initiated at the January 21st regular meeting.

In last month's column I had included the names of all those that were eligible for the formal ceremony, and we were quite pleased to have been able to accommodate eleven of members at this particular session.

They were Associate members, Edward R. Oser, Chris Ferry, James Vonderheide, and Michael Witte.

Inducted as regular members, Steven L. Wagner, Paul W. Chanley, Steven Rayls, Michael A Berger, William H. Mouser, Jeffery O. Fromme, and Michael G. Burris

Sincerest congratulations to all of the new initiates, it's an honor to have you as Marine Corps League members and specifically members of the Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment.



21 January 2009—Junior Vice Commandant Edward Herzog congratulates Steven "Doc" Rayls, FMF Corpsman, after receiving his membership pin during the initiation ceremony

Commandant's Corner

Anyone missing the January meeting, certainly missed an opportunity to get "re-greened"! In addition to being able to initiate a fine group of Marines, sailors, and associates, we had the pleasure of meeting and greeting a contender for our Congressional seat. Republican front-runner and former Marine Lt., Todd Young, enjoyed the meeting, joining in the singing of the Marine Hymn. Todd also took time to speak to all who had questions, concerns, or comments. As has been the case with all legislators and potential legislators, a point paper of veterans and military legislative priorities was presented to him.

As our Junior Vice mentions in his input, some of us have been out, making ourselves available to talk about what we do and what we are. We have been met with warm receptions and assistance from our fellow Veterans organizations. Three more "meet and greets" are planned for this month. Check the calendar of events on page 1

and join us if you can. Remember, membership growth and retention is everyone's responsibility.

Another shared responsibility is that of taking care of each other. If any member is in need or in distress, don't wait for an elected officer to take the lead. You're a detachment member representing the detachment, jump in, get the job done, let everyone know if further assistance is needed.

Leadership is no stranger to Marines. Please check out the article regarding holding an office and step up to the plate, if you meet the requirements. Holding an office takes some of the load off those who continue to work hard for the detachment. As a reminder, if you're not willing to lead, you better be ready to follow!

Finally, the all new member's guide for the detachment is complete. If you would like a copy, they are available for free at the meetings.

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

Meeting Attendance

Of course we realize that it is improbable for some of our new members to attend the initiation ceremony or even be in attendance for our regular meetings, due to the travel distances involved. Our members reside from coast to coast (east to west) ranging from South Carolina, to the state of Washington, and to the north including the Chicago area and as far southwest as Tucson, Arizona. However those living within a short distance really need to start attending the regular meetings.

Ask yourselves, 'Are you fulfilling your obligations as a MCL member'? Are you attending the required number of meetings per year as outlined in the by-laws when you yourselves joined the League and took the oath? Are you recruiting at least one new member per year, as requested?

And especially directed to our 'regular members' who have served as United States Marines at one time in their lives. Remember the motivation that you had prior to becoming a Marine? And the feeling of pride once that you earned the title, and were authorized to wear the Eagle-Globe-and Anchor.

Do you still have the 'esprit de corps' that you had when on active duty? We NEED that from you, we WANT that from you. Won't you all please stand tall as you have so often in the past, come join us once again and help us to continue to make this the best detachment in the state of Indiana?

There is much more to the saying "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" than just plain words. It is an actual FACT. And you all well KNOW IT, AND SHOULD BELIEVE IT! Come on,,, Get motivated, get re-motivated, whatever it takes. Join in with your fellow Marine brothers and sisters, get re-acquainted, have some fun and participate

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Military Wisdom *Submitted by Ed Herzog*

'If the enemy is in range, so are you.' - Infantry Journal-

'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.' - US.Air Force Manual

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.' - General MacArthur -

'You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me.' - U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.-

'Tracers work both ways.' - U.S. Army Ordnance Manual-

'Five second fuses only last three seconds.' - Infantry Journal -

The three most useless things in aviation are: Fuel in the bowser; Runway behind you; and Air above you. -Basic Flight Training Manual-

'Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.' - Maritime Ops Manual -

(Continued on page 3)

Holding a Marine Corps League Office

by Commandant Englert

During the February meeting each year, the Detachment seeks candidates for the Elected offices of Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Paymaster, Adjutant, and Sergeant at Arms. The seven offices comprise the executive committee, responsible for the day to day operations of the Detachment.

Eligibility for these offices is clear cut and is contained in the bylaws of the Detachment. To be eligible for nomination to one of these positions you must be a Regular member in good standing.

A member in "good standing" may be nominated for a Detachment office, even though he/she is not present to accept his/her nomination. However he/she must furnish the nominating committee with a written statement that he/she accepts the nomination and will serve if elected. All nominees must read and sign a copy of his/her duties of office prior to the election.

For a member to be considered "in good standing", he/she must have their current dues paid, must have been formally initiated into the Marine Corps League and have attend a minimum of 6 meetings, including special meetings during the past 12 months.

Exceptions to the Detachment Bylaws may be made upon the approval of more than 2/3'rds of the regular membership.

Military Wisdom

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.' - Unknown Marine Recruit-

'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.' -USAF Ammo Troop-

'Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 50,000 Feet and Climbing.' - Sign over SR71 Wing Ops-

'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.' -Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot)-

'The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.' -Unknown Author-

Marine Family Support Group by Cindy Hembree

Hello to All,

We had a good meeting tonight (14 January), those who were there have agreed to look into purchasing a banner for the MFSG. Also going out for supper... (as our Christmas get together) . One possible date is Feb. 5, 2010. One reason to have it so quickly is because Lent starts Feb.17 and Feb 12 being so close to Valentines day's. If Feb 5 doesn't work then we will have our dinner in April. So if you would please e-mail me which date works well for you..Feb 5 or in April (day to be made at a later date) and I can see which date works best for most everyone! We will have our dinner at the American Legion on a Friday night. At next month's meeting we can plan a date to do care packages in April/May.

Hope everyone is well and your Marine is good.

Also if you have any idea's for the banner, (color, phrase, etc..) please send them to me.

(Late NOTE) : MFSG get together will be Friday, Feb 5, 2010, Jasper American Legion, 6:15 PM.

'If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe.' - Fixed Wing Pilot-

'When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.' -Multi-Engine Training Manual-

'Without ammunition, the USAF is just an expensive flying club.' -Unknown Author-

'If you hear me yell; "Eject, Eject, Eject!", the last two will be echos.' If you stop to ask "Why?" you'll be talking to yourself, because you're the pilot.'

-Pre-flight Briefing from a 104 Pilot-

(To be continued in March!)

"Our membership numbers had increased by over 30% for the year, not including the six (6) new members voted in at the January meeting"



Certificates of Appreciation were given to sponsors such as the Northside Dollar General Store in Jasper

"Anyone not familiar with Marines probably thinks that we are all crazy with this seemingly inexplicable yelling, grunting and displays of bravado."

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call (Cont'd)

with us.

Membership Increases

Am awaiting the new roster updates from National, but as mentioned last month our membership numbers had increased by over 30% for the year, not including the six (6) new members voted in at the January meeting, which will be included in the 2010 roster increase.

Very happy to say that the few members who had been listed as being in arrears have almost all been re-instated, (not a perfect total, but very near) so that too is very much on the plus side.

Also there has been an increased interest in new life memberships. I've been encouraging our members to consider a life membership for various reasons.

Cost savings for the member,

especially long time members, or those nearing, or having reached certain age categories for reduced fees are several of the benefits I've explained to a number of individuals, and they have been responding.

At a quick glance at our membership roster I find that thirty three (33) of our seventy-two (72) regular members are now life members, which is nearing a fifty percent mark. I would also like to mention that the cost savings are available as well, to those who are associate members. So those individuals might also give serious consideration to upgrading to a life membership status.

Detachment Activities

Thank goodness we have a detachment Commandant who can foresee the benefits of keeping things rolling within the organization, by scheduling, planning and participating.

This month and next, generally

considered to be our 'slack periods' prior to the oncoming parade season, and other regularly scheduled events, saw no less than eight (8) separate meetings, interviews, and membership blitz sessions. Not to mention the behind the scenes events of membership recruiting, phone calls, letter mailings, final TFT reports, committee meetings, general communications, and countless emails to and from regarding various aspects of detachment business.

We are busy, trust us. Even during our so-called slack period, (all the more reason for a continued call for more volunteers from within our membership.)

Quite honestly, we would not be anywhere near who, what, or where we are today without the help from among our officers, associates, and family support group volunteers. ALL MEMBERS, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AS WELL!!!

The Meaning of OoRah *by PAO Steven Lindauer*

By now, anyone who has ever listened to a bunch of Marines get together will no doubt at some point here the refrain of OoRah! used at least once during the exchange.

For those associate members and anyone else that ever wondered what the heck we were saying and for Gods sake.... why? I will attempt and explanation.

Anyone not familiar with Marines probably thinks that we are all crazy with this seemingly inexplicable yelling, grunting and displays of bravado.

On more than one occasion I've been asked to explain the custom and how it originated. My answers were probably like anyone else that has been in the Marine Corps. ... I dunno.

It's just a thing we do.

When I entered the Marine Corps in 1972 it was already a well established expression.

For us "grunts" it was used whenever we were in any type of training environment. Many DI's would use it during cadence while we were running.

I can remember doing "seven mile humps" up a certain mountain in Camp Pendleton with full packs and 782 gear shuffling through mud and the rain, soaked to the bone, (by the way,.... remember the song, "It never rains in California"?..., they lied) but, I digress.

About the time you thought you would drop somebody would yell out an Oo Rah !!! and some

where you found it in you to keep going, dragging along anybody that was starting to struggle. So at least from that standpoint it was used as an expression for motivation.

Other times and today, it is used as a response to a greeting from one Marine to another. i.e. "Hey Marine, Jarhead, Devil dog etc. The proper response will be an emphatic Oh - Rah!

Depending on where you are, it may be delivered as a hardy, yell from the top of your lungs. Other times, if you are in a public place, church restaurant etc., it may be a more subdued reply with your "inside voice".

To my knowledge, this is one of the few things that you will not

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The Meaning of OoRah (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

find in the Marine Corps Hand Book. But I recall an article on the same topic from "Leatherneck Magazine" last year, when the question came up about how it originated.

So far lack of any other explanation I will share with you what was printed in that publication. Please keep in mind much of this is paraphrasing.

The expression seems to have originated at a time shortly after the Korean War. In 1953, members of the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Company were aboard the USS Perch (ASSP-313). The Perch was a World War II era diesel submarine retrofitted to carry underwater demolition teams and "Recon

Marines".

Whenever the sub was about to dive, someone would announce over the PA system Dive.. Dive! ... and the klaxon horn that sounded like "arrugha" would be heard though out the boat.

While the 1st Amphib Recon Marines were on conditioning runs on land, they started singing chants and cadence. During the runs, someone initiated the klaxon horn sound "arrugha" and from that time on, it became part of Marine Recon Mantra.

Former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps John Massaro, took "Arrugha" from Recon with him to "Drill Instructor School",

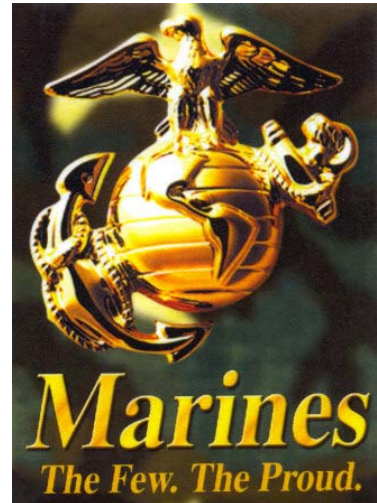
and passed it on to the DI students who in turn passed it on to their recruits. "Arrugha" eventually evolved into "Oorah".

Similar combat growls have been heard in various forms almost since David (who always wanted to be a Marine) kicked Goliath's butt.

Today, although the other branches of service have since come up with their own versions, "Ooo-Rah" is uniquely a Marine way of replying positively to almost anything.

And now you know..... the rest of the story, at least my version of it.

Steve Lindauer



"I like the fact that Marines know the difference between 'Chicken Salad' and 'Chicken Shit' and aren't afraid to call either for what it is!"

Why we Like Marines *by an unnamed Air Force Veteran*

I like the fact that if you are a self-declared enemy of America, running into a Marine outfit in combat is your worst nightmare... And that your health record is either about to get a lot thicker, or be closed out entirely.

I like the fact that Marines are steadfast and consistent in everything they do... Regardless of whether you agree with them or not. I like the fact that Marines view the term 'politically correct' with nothing but pure disdain.

I like the fact that Marines stand tall and rigid in their actions, thoughts, and deeds when others bend with the direction of the wind and are as confused as

A dog looking at a ceiling fan.

I like the fact that each and every Marine considers the honor and legacy of The

Corps as his personal and sacred trust to protect and defend.

I like the fact that most civilians don't have a clue what makes us tick. And that's not a bad thing. Because if they did, it would probably scare the hell out of them.

I like the fact that others say they want to be like us, but don't have what it takes in the Pain-Gain-Pride department to make it happen.

I like the fact that the Marines came into being in a bar, named Tun Tavern..

And that Marines still gather in pubs, bars and slop chutes to share sea stories

And hot scoop.

I like the fact that Marines do not consider it a coincidence that there are 24 Hours in a day and 24 beers in a case.. Because Marines know there is a reason for everything that happens.

I like our motto... SEMPER FIDELIS, and the fact that we don't shed it when the going gets tough, the battle-

field gets deadly or when we hang up our uniform for the last time.

I like the fact that Marines take care of each other... In combat and time of peace.

I like the fact that Marines know the difference between 'Chicken Salad' and 'Chicken Shit' and aren't afraid to call either for what it is.

I like the fact that the people of America hold Marines in the highest esteem And that they know that they can count on us to locate, close with, and destroy those who would harm them..

I like the fact that people think we are cocky.... Yet we know that we have confidence in everything we do and the fact that they don't know the taste of that makes them look at us as if we are arrogant.

I like that fact that we know the taste of freedom and would give our very lives for it. and that it is a taste the protected will ever know.



Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Burns, Manager of Walmart, Jasper, Jr. Vice Commandant Ed Herzog is a walking display of the Marine Corps League. Walmart provided assistance in toy collection and made a large cash donation to the Toys for Tots annual campaign.

Apply

Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 184

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

WWW.SILDMARINES.COM

Please deliver to:

The Difference of the Corps (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

I like the fact that Ronald Reagan said... 'Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference... Marines don't have that problem!'

I like the fact that we are brothers to the end.... And that no matter what happens in life, we know that we have one another's 'six'. I like the fact that an elected member of congress felt compelled to publicly accuse the Marine Corps of being 'radical and extreme'. And I also like the fact that our Commandant informed that member of congress that she was absolutely correct and that he passed on his thanks for the compliment.

I like the fact that Marine leaders - of every rank - know that issuing every man and woman a black beret - or polka-dotted boxer shorts for that matter - does absolutely nothing to promote morale, fighting spirit or combat effectiveness.

I like the fact that Marines are Marines first... Regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, and national origin, or how long they served, their former rank, or what goals they achieve in life.

I like Marines... And I love the fact that I am humbled to have walked among the ranks of other Marines.

I like the fact that you always know where you stand with a Marine. With Marines, there is no middle ground or gray area. There are only Missions, Objectives and Facts.

In closing... If you aren't a Marine, the next best thing is to have a Marine for a husband, wife, and father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, best friend, or just a friend.

SAEPE EXPERTUS, SEMPER FIDELIS, FRATRES AETERNI

(Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever)

Detachment Officers:

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Senior Vice Commandant:

Patrick Moriarty 812-695-5061

Chaplain

John Wagner 812-683-4997

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Ed Herzog 812-695-3115

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Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

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