

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 14 January 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 18 January 2010—Dubois County Veterans Council, 7 PM Jasper VFW Post 673
- 21 January 2010—Regular Meeting of the Detachment and Special Rites of Initiation Ceremony, 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

Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Membership Blitz Almost Here *by Junior Vice Ed Herzog*

Commandant Dave and myself are in the process of planning a major 'membership blitz' during the first six to eight weeks of January/February, which will include a series of radio and TV interviews with WITZ Jasper, WBDC Huntingburg, WWBL Washington, and TV 27/18 Jasper. Additionally we are hoping to set up one evening per week at various service clubs within the county, to avail ourselves to the public, for anyone expressing an interest in obtaining information regarding the 'Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment' and the aims and purposes of our being.

We will have posters, flyers, brochures and informational packets available and will be on hand personally to answer questions about the many activities in which the Detachment participates and sponsors within the county and elsewhere. Hopefully we will attract interest and add to our membership rolls from these informational meetings.

Announcements will be made regarding the times

and places of these gatherings, during our radio & TV sessions, and likewise will be published in the local papers. Our public affairs officer Steve Lindauer will be notifying the local media outlets with the necessary notices.

Currently we are leaning toward one evening, such as a Friday evening for several hours each on a rotating basis between the Jasper VFW, Jasper Legion, Ferdinand Legion, and the Huntingburg VFW. With reasonable success in our efforts we may in addition return to one or more of the above locations for additional sessions.

Detachment officers and members are most welcome and encouraged to participate. As always, the larger the presence of members in uniform, the better the chance of influencing the public.

Rites of Initiation to be held during January Meeting

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Our next regular meeting to be held on Thursday evening January 21st, 2010 at the American Legion Post 147 in Jasper, is one of the most important meetings of the entire year.

It is the lone night of the year upon which we hold our annual membership initiations for both newly signed members during the past year, as well as those who have been members for some time and have never been formally sworn in and initiated.

This being a 'formal meeting event' it is required that all Detachment officers be attired in the modified undress uniform which is:
 Red Blazer, Black Trousers, Detachment Cover - No Ribbons You may wear with the Blazer: The blazer crest and life membership lapel pin and MOY medals.

I encourage all uninitiated members to attend this meeting as it is the ONLY opportunity during the year to be formally initiated.

The following new members who have joined either toward the very end of 2008, or during the 2009 calendar year are eligible for the swearing in ceremony. Joseph R. Reuber, Edward R. Oser, Paul W. Chanley, Steven L. Wagner, Daniel J. Beck, Betty L. Fendel, Poncho E. Martinez, Roger Junkin, Michael Witte, Thomas G. Marks, Frank J. Billington III, Thomas A. Foglestad, William H. Mouser, Ryan Sherer, David A. Saull, Timothy J. Bailey, Derek A. Edrington, Chris K. Knies, Chris Ferry plus ANY current members who have not yet been initiated are urged to attend.

Those wishing to be initiated during this ceremony are asked to contact Jr. Vice Commandant Herzog at (812) 695-3115 (leave message), or email at: smprfi@psci.net

Initiates are welcome to bring friends and family to this ceremony.

Commandant's Corner

Here we are, 2010; where are the jet-packs, daily flights to Mars, and those annoying computers named Hal? Well, it's not named Hal, but the computer can be annoying. Just when I thought 2009 would finally be done and over with, it snuck in, conspired with my computer and made the next week less than fun.

Fortunately, the hope of 2010 is alive, and all is well again. Thanks to the help of many who submitted information for the newsletter we again have a six page newsletter. With your continued support, I hope to continue that trend.

In my discussions with members, I've come to the unscientific conclusion that people join our organization for one or more of the following three reasons: 1. To be part of something greater, 2. To be part of an organization that is "doing something", 3. To be with their fellow Marines. I believe our Detachment offers all three possibilities.

This month we're going to try to find some of the few, who wish to be part of our fine organization. With this in mind, we will have open house events (as mentioned by our Jr. Vice, Page 1) from 5-7 PM at the following: January 15th Jasper Legion,

January 22nd Jasper VFW

January 29th Huntingburg VFW

February 5th Jasper Legion

February 12th Jasper VFW

February 19th Huntingburg VFW

If you have time to participate, please let Ed know so that we can coordinate.

I look forward to the potential of 2010 and to continued association with this great detachment.

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

By the time this edition is printed we will have completed the membership drive for the 2009 calendar year.

With a thirty percent increase in membership overall we can honestly say that it has been a reasonably successful year when comparing with many other service organizations, who have experienced much lesser percentage increases, or who have actually had negative gains or losses. Eighteen new members have been voted into the Detachment, with one more actually signed and presently awaiting induction at our very first meeting of 2010.

Certainly much more work is left to increase our roster

numbers, however one statistic that I am very pleased with is the decrease in members that had been listed in arrears from the beginning of the year and throughout the summer and fall months.

Of course we have not been 100% effective in retention of these individual members, as several have been dropped from the roster by the National MCL organization, but for the most part we've been successful in getting those valued members resigned and paid up to date. Again, it hurts deeply to actually lose a former member regardless of whatever the reason may be.

(Continued on page 4)

Thoughts for 2010 by Department of Indiana Commandant Russ Eaglin

Marines, 2009 has been a good year for the Department of Indiana. The Department provided Leadership Training. Our activity level is up for most Detachments, we have a new Detachment and 4 more prospective Detachments in the works, our local and state wide communications are up and complaints are dramatically down.

Now the hard part, having fun in 2010 and adding all the new members it will bring.

Our activity level is up, but it is my concern that we are not taking advantage of all the opportunities that good "PRESS" provides. Getting the word out to your community of your activities is one of the best membership building tools you have. A news source on my cell phone brings me news stories about Marines. As an example, many of the Detachments across the country are in the news for their Toys For Tots efforts. We are doing a great job with Toys For Tots, but I am not seeing much PRESS. Commandants I suggest that if you don't have one, find a

good Public Relations Officer to appoint. And make sure they send that same information to MarinesOfIndiana.com!

I know you have all heard and I will continue to suggest that we continue to provide Leadership for our Detachments, encourage Teamwork among our Officers and Members within the Detachments and between Detachments, and the whole time focusing on the Mission.

I look forward to 2010 and the great things that are going to happen in our Department. Along with the Division Vice Commandant in your area I would like to visit activities at your Detachments, please keep us in mind so we can coordinate calendars.

Happy New Year!

Semper Fidelis,

Russ Eaglin

Selective Service Board Member Openings *information provided by Russ Eaglin*

Carroll Harris, LtCol USMCR, Reserve Force Officer, Selective Service System Region One, Indiana Detachment has announced that Selective Service System Board members are needed in Indiana for Lake, LaPorte, Elkhart, Starke, DeKalb, Steuben, Huntington, Cass, Fayette, Union, Marion, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, White, Clinton, Bartholomew, Lawrence, Decatur, Jennings, Rush, Ohio, Vanderburg, and Perry counties. SS Board members are volunteers that play an important community role closely connected with our nation's defense. If a military draft becomes necessary, approximately 2,000 Local Boards throughout America would decide which young men in each community receive deferments, postponements, or exemptions from military service based on federal guidelines.

The Board Member program is one of the primary components of the Selective Service System. Over 11,000 volunteers are currently trained in Selective Service regulations and procedures so that if a draft is reinstated, they will be able to fulfill their obligations fairly and equitably. Board members undergo an initial 8-hour training session and then participate in annual training in which they review sample cases similar to real-life situations.

Local Board members are appointed by the Director of Selective Service in the name of the President, on recommendations made by their respective state governors or an equivalent public official. If you are interest in serving as a Local Board member, you may apply on-line for an application package. Some requirements to be a board member are that they be:

- U.S. citizens
- at least 18 years old
- not a retired or active member of the Armed Forces or any Reserve component
- live in the area in which the board has jurisdiction
- be willing to spend enough time at the position.

This is an opportunity for you to continue to serve our great Nation. If you interested in serving as a Selective Service Board Member for one of these counties, please **contact Lt.Col. Carol Harris at 317-506-0369** or by emailing him Civ. Email Work: cnharris@uspis.gov Mil Email: carroll.harris@usmc.mil

Marine “General Faces Charges” *Compiled from numerous sources*

David Vincent Weber arrived last month at a Ramona Veterans of Foreign Wars event in style: two stars on his shoulder and two Purple Heart medals pinned on the front of a Marine Corps uniform.

Weber, 69, appeared in a federal courtroom in downtown San Diego yesterday with considerably less pomp. He faces a charge under the 2005 Stolen Valor Act of wearing military medals he didn't earn while passing himself off as a Marine major general at VFW Post 3783's birthday celebration for the Corps.

Weber didn't enter a plea, was allowed to post bail and was appointed an attorney at federal government expense during a hearing in U.S. District Court.

Weber's attorney, Joseph Camden, said the Ramona resident has a long list of medical problems, including prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease and three previous strokes. He takes 18 medications and is under the care of a psychiatrist, Camden said.

Federal prosecutor Arthur Rizer said the U.S. Justice Department is considering whether to pursue felony charges against Weber. The hearing involved one misdemeanor charge, filed Dec. 23, that carries a maximum sentence of a year's imprisonment.

Rizer said Weber was shown considerable courtesy at the November VFW event because of his assumed rank and prestige, including being allowed to eat the first piece of cake — an honor usually extended to the oldest Marine at the gathering. In addition to the Purple Hearts, Weber wore five Legion of Merit honors, the prosecutor said.

“He took the spotlight from individuals who did earn the medals they were wearing,” Rizer said.

Weber, who walked with a wooden cane and wore a hearing aid, refused to comment after leaving the courtroom.

The commander of the Ramona VFW post said he feels sorry for Weber and hopes the court is lenient — even though it appears the “general” didn't deserve the respect he was given.

“He sold it pretty well, mainly because of his age. People tend not to question an older gentleman,” said Dale Smith, a retired Navy master chief.

“Unfortunately, he didn't end up being a gentleman.”

Fakers like Weber force all veterans' organizations to be ever vigilant. The Marine Corps League requires the submission of a valid DD-214 for admittance into the rolls of regular membership.

Marine Family Support Group *by Cindy Hembree*

MFSG had a great time helping with the TFT's campaign this year..some of our Marines are coming home for the holiday's. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all. See ya Next Year!!!!

Not much for us to say this month ..but I had fun with TFT. doing this makes you feel blessed and humbled!!

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

"We simply cannot afford to allow these good people to fade away into the sunset, but rather must increase our efforts to regain, and retain each and every one."



Detachment Marine of the Year Medal

"An Army of One", "Let the Journey Begin", or "It's a Great Way of Life", compared to "First to Fight" illustrates the difference in mindsets.

Unfortunately our latest updated list of inactive members from National contains far too many former members who need additional coaxing to rejoin our ranks. We simply cannot afford to allow these good people to fade away into the sunset, but rather must increase our efforts to regain, and retain each and every one.

At our last month's meeting, which was held at the TFT sorting facility in the Hedinger Roofing Building we accepted several new members which I would like to acknowledge and welcome aboard at this time.

Thomas A. Foglestad from Arlington Hgts, IL joined our

Detachment as a regular 'life member' and William H. Mouser from Dubois, IN joined as a regular member as well. I'd like to say to both of these Marines that we are most happy to have you aboard and look forward to a long relationship. Tom, incidentally is a personal friend who served along with me in the same H&S Company communications platoon. So we go back a long way together, almost 50 years to be exact.

Also at the same meeting we gained two additional 'life memberships' from our rolls, who had joined during the past calendar year. They are Paul Chanley, who converted

from a regular membership to 'life membership' status, and our Detachment's very first 'Associate life member' Betty Fendel. Both are from Jasper, and we are certainly glad to have them as permanent fixtures with us.

Within the next month or so I am planning on implementing an installment payment plan for interested 'current members' and 'prospective members' so as to allow those wishing to upgrade their status to that of 'life membership' or new members joining initially as a life member, an easy pay method. More to follow on that later.

The Difference of the Corps by unknown author

The MARINE CORPS is the only branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that recruits people specifically to Fight.

The Army emphasizes personal development (an Army of One), the Navy promises fun (let the journey begin), the Air Force offers security (its a great way of life).

Missing from all the advertisements is the hard fact that a soldier's life is to suffer and perhaps to die for his people and take lives at the risk of his/her own.

Even the thematic music of the services reflects this evasion. The Army's Caisson Song describes a pleasant country outing. Over hill and dale, lacking only a picnic

basket. Anchors Aweigh the Navy's celebration of the joys of sailing could have been penned by Jimmy Buffet.

The Air Force song is a lyric poem of blue skies and engine thrust.

All is joyful, and invigorating, and safe. There are no land mines in the dales nor snipers behind the hills, no submarines or cruise missiles threaten the ocean jaunt, no bandits are lurking in the wild blue yonder.

The Marines' Hymn, by contrast, is all combat. "We fight our Country's battles", "First to fight for right and freedom", "We have fought in every clime and place where we

could take a gun", "In many a strife we have fought for life and never lost our nerve".

The choice is made clear. You may join the Army to go to adventure training, or join the Navy to go to Bangkok, or join the Air Force to go to computer school. You join the Marine Corps to go to War! But the mere act of signing the enlistment contract confers no status in the Corps.

The Army recruit is told from his first minute in uniform that "you're in the Army now, soldier". The Navy and Air Force enlistees are sailors or airmen as soon as they get off the bus at the training center.

The Difference of the Corps (Cont'd)

The new arrival at Marine Corps boot camp is called a recruit, or worse (a lot worse), but never a MARINE. Not yet, maybe never. He or she must earn the right to claim the title of UNITED STATES MARINE and failure returns you to civilian life without hesitation or ceremony.

Recruit Platoon 2210 at San Diego, California trained from October through December of 1968. In Viet Nam the Marines were taking two hundred casualties a week and the major rainy season and Operation Meade River had not even begun, yet Drill Instructors had no qualms about winnowing out almost a quarter of their 112 recruits, graduating 81.

Note that this was post-enlistment attrition. Every one of those 31 who were dropped had been passed by the recruiters as fit for service..

But they failed the test of Boot Camp! Not necessarily for physical reasons. At least two were outstanding high school athletes for whom the calisthenics and running were child's play. The cause of their failure was not in the biceps nor the legs, but in the spirit. They had lacked the will to endure the mental and emotional strain so they would not be Marines. Heavy commitments and high casualties notwithstanding, the Corps reserves the right to pick and choose.

History classes in boot camp? Stop a soldier on the street and ask him to name a battle of World War One. Pick a sailor at random and ask for a description of the epic fight of the Bon Homme Richard. Ask an airman who Major Thomas

McGuire was and what is named after him. I am not carping and there is no sneer in this criticism. All of the services have glorious traditions, but no one teaches the young soldier, sailor or airman what his uniform means and why he should be proud of it.

But...ask a Marine about World War One and you will hear of the wheat field at Belleau Wood and the courage of the Fourth Marine Brigade comprised of the Fifth and Sixth Marines.. Faced with an enemy of superior numbers entrenched in tangled forest undergrowth the Marines received an order to attack that even the charitable cannot call ill-advised. It was insane.

Artillery support was absent and air support hadn't been invented yet.

Even so the Brigade charged German machine guns with only bayonets, grenades, and an indomitable fighting spirit. A bandy-legged little barrel of a Gunnery Sergeant, Daniel J. Daly, rallied his company with a shout, "Come on you sons a bitches, do you want to live forever?"

He took out three machine guns himself.

French liaison-officers hardened though they were by four years of trench bound slaughter were shocked as the Marines charged across the open wheat field under a blazing sun directly into the teeth of enemy fire. Their action was so anachronistic on the twentieth-century field of battle that they might as well have been swinging cutlasses. But the enemy was only human. The Boche could not stand up to the onslaught.

So the Marines took Belleau Wood. The Germans, those that survived, thereafter referred to the Marines as "Tuefel Hunden" (Devil Dogs) and the French in tribute renamed the woods "Bois de la Brigade de Marine" (Woods of the Brigade of Marines).

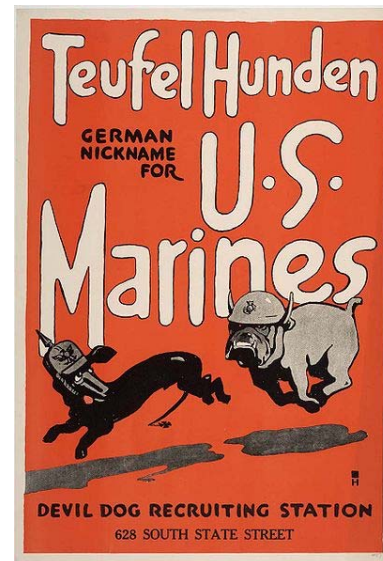
Every Marine knows this story and dozens more. We are taught them in boot camp as a regular part of the curriculum. Every Marine will always be taught them! You can learn to don a gas mask anytime, even on the plane in route to the war zone, but before you can wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor and claim the title United States Marine you must first know about the Marines who made that emblem and title meaningful. So long as you can march and shoot and revere the legacy of the Corps you can take your place in line. And that line is as unified in spirit as in purpose.

A soldier wears branch service insignia on his collar, metal shoulder pins and cloth sleeve patches to identify his unit, and far too many look like they belong in a band.

Sailors wear a rating badge that identifies what they do for the Navy.

Airmen have all kinds of badges and get medals for finishing schools and showing up for work.

MARINES wear only the Eagle, Globe and Anchor together with personal ribbons and their CHERISHED Marksmanship Badges. They know why the uniforms are the colors they are and what each color means. There is nothing on a Marine's uniform to indicate what he or she does nor what unit the Marine belongs to.



MARINES wear only the Eagle, Globe and Anchor together with personal ribbons and their CHERISHED Marksmanship Badges.

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Detachment #931*

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The Difference of the Corps (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

You cannot tell by looking at a Marine whether you are seeing a truck driver, a computer programmer or a machine gunner or a cook or a baker.

The Marine is amorphous, even anonymous, by conscious design.

The Marine is a Marine. Every Marine is a Rifleman First and Foremost, a Marine first, last and Always! You may serve a four-year enlistment or even a twenty plus year career without seeing action, but if the word is given you'll charge across that Wheatfield! Whether a Marine has been schooled in automated supply or automotive mechanics or aviation electronics or whatever is immaterial. Those things are secondary - the Corps does them because it must. The modern battle requires the technical appliances and since the enemy has them so do we. But no Marine boasts mastery of them.

Our pride is in our Marksmanship, our Discipline, and our membership in a fraternity of Courage and Sacrifice. "For the honor of the fallen, for the glory of the dead", Edgar Guest wrote of Belleau Wood . "The living line of courage kept the faith and moved ahead." They are all gone now, those Marines who made a French farmer's little Wheatfield into one of the most enduring of Marine Corps legends. Many of them did not survive the day and eight long decades have claimed the rest. But their actions are immortal.

The Corps remembers them and honors what they did and so they live forever.

Dan Daly's shouted challenge takes on its true meaning - if you lie in the trenches you may survive for now, but someday you may die and no one will care. If you charge the guns you may die in the next two minutes, but you will be one of the immortals.

All Marines die in either the red flash of battle or the white cold of the nursing home. In the vigor of youth or the infirmity of age all will eventually die, but the Marine Corps lives on. Every Marine who ever lived is living still, in the Marines who claim the title today.

It is that sense of belonging to something that will outlive our own mortality, which gives people a light to live by, and a flame to mark their passing.

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