



Scuttlebutt

Detachment 141, Westfield, Mass.

Volume 62, No. 3

Since 1945

March 2007

Internet Gateway To Instant Information on Detachment Events

Many of us Marines boast of being in the "Old Corps." The problem is there isn't an "Old Corps," and just like Old Navy, never existed except in the minds of those who served in years gone-by.

Today's U.S. Marine Corps is not your grandfather's Corps and if you are the grandpa, the Corps you served in only exists in your memory.

Marines serving today in combat in Iraq carry laptop computers, laser guided weapons, headsets giving them instant communications to their squad leaders, night vision goggles, cell phones to call home from the battlefield and all kinds of gadgets that only Buck Rogers or Captain Kirk would be familiar with.

So get with it. The internet is a new and value tool for this Detachment and the Marine Corps League to utilize just as the regular Corps does.

And we are there,. www.mclwrv141.com will bring you right to the page. Open it and you have menu that will get you to the info you are looking for.

Hosted by our Web Sgt. Joe Dymon, that's a rank you won't find in the Old Corps, the pages are designed to keep every member up to date on



Web Page Heading

upcoming detachment events and schedules, features on members , state and national MCL news and the latest info on what our Marines are doing around the world. Scuttlebutt is copied to the web site and all members with an email address will receive the newsletter on the web site, saving postage fees.



Team Makes Benefit Dinner A Success

The February 17th benefit dinner served more than 150 diners. The team , from left to right, standing, George Daley, Marcie Daley, Joe Willis, Don Rivette, Barry Szymojko, Bill Fisher, Fran Curnow, Tom Pirnie. Kneeling, l to r, JR, Joe Damon, Aldo Mancini and Brian Dupee. See story on Page 4.



Commandant Francis J. Curnow

Former NCO's Offered

RE-Enlistment Bid

The Marine Corps is reaching out to former Marines in its effort to grow the service to 207,000 Marines by 2011.

Part of the effort to grow the force is to contact noncommissioned officers who have separated from the service in the last four and offer them the option of coming back in.

Everything is negotiable: four-year enlistments, two-year enlistments, airborne school, other military schools, and so on, plus NCOs should be able to come back on active duty with their former ranks.

Commandant's Corner.

This has been a difficult month with several members answering the final muster. I was especially proud to be with a large contingent of our brother Marines from Detachments around the state to support the family of Marine helicopter pilot, Capt. Jennifer Harris. God Speed to our own Herb Page and just last Sunday Joe Messina's mother, a WWII Coast Guard Veteran reporting home. On happier themes, the fund raiser at Alexanders' was an

outstanding success. WELL DONE to all who helped, from the ticket / raffle sellers to the young Marines who were doing the clean up.. For those that noticed J.R. out of uniform at the dinner you may not have known how much fun he had with cellar & pipe detail at the Barracks! Frank Real is beginning to percolate again ..keep it up! That's all for now.
Semper Fi,
Fran C.



Ticket Takers

Benefit dinner tickets and raffle results topped expectations thanks to the team of, from left to right, Tom Pirnie, Bill Fisher, and Joe Willis. See story on Page 4.

Calendar of Events

March 12-Regular Detachment meeting 1900 hours

March 31 - Parker Park, Westfield, 1:00 PM

Vietnam Day Ceremonies - Liberty Chap. 219 Vietnam Veterans.

April 14 - Parker Park, Westfield, 1:00 PM

Patriots Day Ceremonies - American Legion Post 454

Detachment 141 Meets Monthly On 2nd Monday. Social Hour 1800 Meeting 1900.





Marine Period Uniforms

Marines at the Marine Corps Heritage Museum at Quantico, Va. pose in uniforms worn during the various era's in Marine Corps History. The museum was dedicated November 10, 2006 and is a must see for all Marines.

Scholarship Apps

Due April 1st

Applications for annual scholarships awarded by Detachment 141 and the Marine Corps League are due by April 1.

Eligibility is open to qualified high school seniors and college students residing in all communities where Detachment 141 members live.

“That means virtually all of Western Massachusetts,” Senior Vice Commandant Brian Dupee said.

Applications are available at the barracks.

Those submitting applications are also eligible for Marine Corps League (MCL) scholarships offered by the MCL Department of Massachusetts MCL New England Division and MCL National headquarters.

Report That Marines Will Replace Humvees In Iraq With New Heavily Armored Vehicles (MRAP's) To Better Protect Troops

By Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON – Marines in heavily armored Humvees are being killed by roadside bombs at such a rate that the Marine Corps intends to replace all its Humvees in Iraq with specialized blast-resistant armored vehicles, according to senior Marine officers.

The Army will continue to primarily rely on its armored Humvees in Iraq, senior Army officers said February 15, it was reported.

The decision to scrap the Marines' Humvees in Iraq, after years of trying to protect their crews by adding armor plate, was made by Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, commander of Marines forces in the Middle East.

It will cost an additional \$2.8 billion for the V-hull armored vehicles called MRAPs, or Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, that are being delivered in small numbers to Iraq.

More than 700 Marines have been killed in Iraq since the war began almost four years ago. Almost two-thirds have been killed in Humvees, Marine officers said.

In contrast, experience with the 65 MRAP vehicles the Marines have in Iraq shows that their crews are four or five times more likely to survive a blast than those riding in armored Humvees.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, defended the Army's

decision not to replace its Humvees with MRAPs.

Gen. Schoomaker insisted that "we are aggressively pursuing the MRAP program." But, he said, it made more sense to wait for a new design to eventually replace all of the Army's Humvees.

Sick Call

Art Fisher and David Tirell, Holyoke Soldiers Home. Waldo Rankin (The Admiral), broken hip, therapy at home.

Final Call

Herbert Page, November 2007

Marines Remember Iwo Jima 64 Years Later

Three Marines and a Navy chaplain who participated in the battle for Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945 were honored during ceremonies held February 23 at West Springfield's City Hall.

Marines Don Withee, James Bourdreau and Henry E. Sullivan, and Navy Chaplain Rev. E. Gage Hotaling recalled that battle to those citizens and veterans attending the ceremony.

"I remember the day because the men were all cheering and one of men had field glasses so we could all see. It was a great thrill," Rev. Hotaling related.

The men were cheering the raising of the American Flag on Mount Suribachi 64 years ago. The battle lasted 36 days and cost 6,821 American lives, mostly Marines.

Other speakers at the ceremonies were Detachment 141 members John W. Ramsey, who served in Korea, Det. 141 Judge Advocate Thomas Pirnie.



Iwo Jima Vets Remember

Active duty U.S. Marines from Westover Air Reserve Base and members of Detachment 141 retire the Colors ending ceremonies remembering Iwo Jima at West Springfield City Hall.

Dinner Fund Raiser A Success

More than 150 dinners were served at the February 17 fund raiser at Alexanders Restaurant in Agawam. Det. Commandant Francis J. Curnow praised committee members for a "job

done "and thanked those who donated door prizes. "It was a terrific night," he said.

Proceeds from the dinner support the detachment's community efforts such as the annual scholarship program.

Donors included: Old Century Barber Shop, Agawam; Joyce Rheame, Partylite; Twin Silos, Agawam; Westfield feed and Grain, Westfield; Dr. Thomas A. Pirnie; Valenti's Restaurant, Agawam; Goodfellaz, Feeding Hills; Don Rivette; George and Marcie Daley; Peggy Gary; Ultra-Marine Prod., Milton, FL; Salon Tres Chic, Agawam; Bev DeGeorge, Longaberger; Wes's Package Store, Feeding Hill; Sandie's Cleaners, Agawam; Leslie Pirnie, Canine Learning Center; Schlaffer Chiropractics, Agawam; Sunoco Gas, River Road, Agawam; Foster Farrah, Northampton; Don Gadoua; Gail Curnow, and Semper Pie,

Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, and is intended only for the information of its members. Articles and photos do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Marine Corps or the Marine Corps League. Detachment Headquarters is at 71 North Elm St., Westfield, MA 01085. 413--562-4850. Items for publication should be dropped off the headquarters or by contacting the editor or associate editor.

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