

the

CUTTING EDGE

August 2010

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League

Mac McNeir, Commandant & Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

End of One Era ... Start of Another

NOTE – The following is based upon an article by Gretel C. Kovach, Military Affairs writer for the San Diego Union-Tribune, which was originally posted on May 24, 2010.



Helicopters from Miramar based squadron HMM-165 are parked on the deck of the USS Peleliu at Naval Base San Diego. [Photo –Howard Lipin/San Diego Union-Tribune]

The current deployment of the amphibious assault ship **Peleliu** will be the last for the **CH-46E** helicopters aboard, when the Peleliu steamed out of San Diego Bay in May for a seven-month deployment. The soon-to-be-retired '**Battle Phrogs**' – the beloved snub-nosed CH-46E helicopters with tandem rotors – have certainly earned it.

For more than four decades, the Marine Corps has relied on the CH-46 to transport troops and equipment. Numbers painted on the exhaust-blackened bodies of these whirlybirds confirm their pedigree – four of them saw combat duty in Vietnam.

The **Sea Knights**, as the Boeing-made helicopters are also known, are now older than the pilots who fly them, said **Lt. Colonel Todd J. Oneto**, Commanding Officer of **HMM-165**. Thanks to high level maintenance, these birds have been kept alive since the last one was produced in 1971, Oneto said.

(see End of One Era on page 13)

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- Published Monthly
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- Junior Vice-Commandant – Woody Bowman
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- Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – Michael R. Hadley
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Chris Kalwa
- Toys for Tots Coordinator – Vacant
- VA/VS Officer – Vacant
- Web Sergeant – Michael R. Hadley
- Young Marines Commander – George Martin

Embroidered detachment patches are available for purchase from the Judge Advocate for the bargain price of \$3 each.

Visit the Department of Maryland web site at...
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

Not much to say this month, except for a caution to take it easy on those days when the heat and humidity soar. Don't jeopardize your health and well-being by over exerting yourself when heat alerts have been issued.

I am also interested in hearing the tales of those who were fortunate enough to attend the recent **Marine Corps League National Convention** in Greensboro, NC. I will publish anything I hear that is truly interesting and of benefit to the general membership.

If you have Internet capability and are not currently getting your newsletter electronically, I would appreciate being provided with your email address; and, being kept aware of any changes to your current mailing address.

The submission deadline for all **September** newsletter articles is no later than **MIDNIGHT, Wednesday, September 15, 2010!**





Established 1943
Garrison Rifle & Revolver Club, Inc.
is a
Charter Member
of the
Associated Gun Clubs of
Baltimore, Inc.

The Club offers training and classes in most of the shooting sports and promotes shooting sports for all ages and abilities. Garrison hosts the following events:

- Spring Pistol League
- Bullseye Pistol Championship
- Trap Shoot
- Jr's Club Shoot
- 4H State Match
- Club Crab Feast
- Club Christmas Dinner

Garrison Rifle and Revolver members have the following facilities available for their use:

- Covered bench-rest equipped rifle, black powder, and pistol range (25, 50, 75 & 100 yards)
- Indoor air rifle range
- Fifty point, covered, outdoor, pistol range (25 & 50 yards)
- Ten point, covered, high power, rifle range (200 yards with butts)
- A four field, lighted, outdoor, trap range w/automatic and manual trap house
- Messick Hall club house with kitchen and restrooms
- Lower range house/meeting hall

Club meets every second Tuesday of each month except January which is the third Tuesday.
11518 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104-1220



For more information contact club secretary
Brian Beverly at (410) 437-4864
Email – garrisonrvc@yahoo.com

Detachment Membership Stats – 7/31/2010

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	74	9	6
Annual Memberships	34	7	–
Delinquent Dues			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	8	3	–
New Members			
–	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
116	19	6	–
Total			
141			



Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

New members are our life's blood! Recruit new members!

Marines of 1049,

As I mentioned at our last meeting, our **VFW Post Commander Pete Pervi** is looking for assistance in addressing many house-keeping and repair issues. He needs help from members of the tenant organizations that utilize the post's facilities as well as members of the VFW. Let's be sure to demonstrate our appreciation for use of the post by showing up on **12 September** prepared to do all that we can to assist the Commander in addressing some long neglected tasks.

My Focus for this Fiscal Year

Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to serve as our **2010 Toys for Tots** campaign coordinator. Consequently, our participation (if any) will be limited to serving as a supporter of the **Marine Corps Reserve Unit** in Baltimore. Since we are not recognized as part of the national organization for 2010, we cannot legally operate or advertise independently as a **2010 Toys for Tots** drive affiliate. If need be, we will pickup toys from local contributors and deliver them to the Baltimore Reserve Unit.

Membership

Two membership issues need to be addressed. First, a renewed emphasis needs to be placed upon *adding to our membership*, which is currently around 140 members. Second, I would like to see increased member participation... as exemplified by an *increase in attendance at our monthly meetings*, which typically averages around 30-35 members.

With regard to memberships... I would encourage each of you to carry an application in your wallet and encourage any potential members, whom you encounter in your day-to-day activities, to join our detachment.

With regard to meeting attendance... as our members age, some will stop attending our meetings as they will have trouble driving at night, etc. In the spirit of Semper Fi, I ask those of you, who know of members already in this situation, to please consider offering to provide them with transportation to and from our meetings. Not only will this allow them to again be part of our activities; but, it will also allow them to interact with a fellow Marine during the travel to and from the meetings. It will likely make you feel a little better as well. If you cannot provide transportation but know of members, who could use a ride, please provide their identity to either the Chaplain or myself.

Helping Those Who Came After...

I continue to be proud of our accomplishments with regard to our annual **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament**; however, I would like to see us stretch a little and see if we cannot do a little more. As mentioned at previous meetings, I am encouraging some detachment members to volunteer and assist at the monthly picnics held at the **Bethesda Naval Medical Center** from March through October of each year. If you are interested in assisting with the picnics, you should contact either me or Tony Begenwald.

Did you know that patient and staff meals on **Christmas Day** are provided by **Marines Helping Marines** and volunteers as the hospital kitchen is closed for the holiday? I plan to be part of this year's effort. What about you? What better gift could you possibly give?

Operation Welcome Home

Being that we are located so near to **BWI**, I feel that we should make a greater effort to be part of **Operation Welcome Home**... to meet, greet, and assist current members of the military returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theaters of operation. This activity can be undertaken individually or in groups. The schedule of returning flights is always in a state of flux, so access to the Internet and email are helpful but not essential. For those without computers, call **410-630-1555** for information about the next scheduled event. You should also call the hotline within two hours of any event (prior to departure for the airport) to become aware of any changes in flight scheduling.



Semper Fi,

<http://www.operationwelcomehomemd.org/>

Mac

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Hello, Marines

I hear everyone lucked out during my absence and didn't have to listen to the "vertically challenged one." I'm sure he would have performed just fine.

The **Bull and Oyster Roast** is still scheduled for **Sunday, October 10th** from **1:00 to 6:00 PM** (remember this is our largest fundraiser of the year). I currently have the tickets, and they are now for sale. If anyone needs tickets please contact me at **(410) 897-7607** or you can purchase them from the bartender at **VFW Post 160**. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there for good eats and an afternoon of festivities.

Semper Fi!

Chris

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

No Article This Month

Woody has been on a well-deserved vacation this month; so, there will be no article from our **Junior Vice Commandant** in this month's newsletter.

Woody's monthly articles will resume with the publication of the September issue of *the Cutting Edge*.

The Editor

Post Clean-Up

NOTE - The following is an excerpt from the Commander's article in the VFW Post 160 Newsletter published on July 23, 2010.

Post Cleanup day will be here very soon. Here is what I would like for us to accomplish:

Team 1....Take everything out of the kitchen cabinets, drawers, etc. Clean the cabinets and drawers and return items in an orderly manner. All extra items will be identified as needed or we will get rid of it. All broken items will be thrown out. The refrigerator will be totally cleaned out and all expired items thrown away. All other items will be marked by owner or tossed. Clean the stove and stove hood.

Team 2....Strip and wax the hall floor.

Team 3....Inventory and clean the bar. Every item will be removed and all shelves, cabinets, and surfaces will be dusted and cleaned.

Team 4....Clean the artillery piece, missile, and police the post grounds.

How much we can accomplish will depend on how many volunteers show up!



Members' Birthdays

NOTE - Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in the following birthday listings.

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of **August**, include:

Manny Airey	Eddie Grove	Mike Hadley
Robert Hole	Dick Johnson	Fred Kaminski
Jim LeGette	Robert Lucian	George Martin
John Ogle	Earl Parker	Charles Quick
Ruhl Rexroad	Granville Smith	Joseph Wright

Members celebrating **September** birthdays include:

Jeffrey Clark	Vic Halme	Walter Jonston
Scott Mione	John Purcell	David Williams





Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

By the time you read this, the **Supreme Growl** will be history, and we will have at least 20 more PDDs in the Maryland Pack. I want to congratulate all those brave Dogs, who passed through the hallowed walls of Dogdom and survived the grueling initiation process in North Carolina. I hope all of you enjoyed the ordeal.

Now that the Supreme Growl is history, a new Dog year starts. All Pounds must have nomination, election, and installation of their officers no later than 90 days after the Supreme Growl. That gives you until the Marine Corps birthday to get it done. And don't forget the paperwork! Get your **Officers Installation Report** to your **Pack Dog Robber** as soon as possible after your installation. Also, don't forget to invite your Pack officers to your growls and installation. They have lots of bones they would be glad to contribute to your Pound.

The dues for all annual paying Dogs expire on 31 August; so, put your paw into your pocket and get your renewal bones in to your Pound Dog Robber.

All you new PDDs... if you want a life membership, the cost is **\$150 for Dogs 60 and under** and **\$125 for Dogs 61 and over**. Dogs must have a life membership in the MCL before they can be life members in the MODD.

Pound 204 will be growling on 22 August at the Pound Dog House at 1000 with breakfast at 0900, and Bloody-Marys at 0800. Bring bones.

As always, keep the fleas at a safe distance.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



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shamrockawards@erols.com



Chaplain's Corner

by Ken Webster, Detachment Chaplain

Please keep all of our extended family members, mentioned below, in your thoughts and prayers. Remember to please contact me at either of the following numbers as soon as you learn of any member or family member, who is sick, in distress, etc. – 410-255-0741 (home) or 443-618-9641 (cell).

Charlie Young

Recently underwent a knee replacement at the **Arundel Medical Center**. According to Woody, Charlie is at home and doing well.

Wyman Bailey

Member of the detachment since 2004 and previous Commander of VFW Post 160, was interred in **Arlington National Cemetery** on 9 August 2010.

Patricia Glaros

Sister of Commandant Mac McNeir was recently admitted to **Franklin Square Hospital** for severe respiratory distress. Fortunately, the anomaly discovered in her lungs was pneumonia rather than what was originally feared. The prognosis is considered hopeful.



Former Arlington Officials Subpoenaed

NOTE – The following Associated Press article by Anne Flaherty appeared on the Marine Corps Times website on July 27th.

WASHINGTON – A spokeswoman for **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), said Tuesday that a subpoena has been issued to two former Arlington National Cemetery officials who were pushed out after the Army discovered that at least 211 remains had been misidentified or misplaced.

Maria Speiser said the cemetery's former superintendent, **John Metzler**, and his deputy, **Thurman Higginbotham**, have been told they are legally bound to testify at Thursday's hearing before the **Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs** subcommittee on contracting oversight.

The public appearance would be their first since the Army announced in June that Metzler and Higginbotham would be removed from their jobs. Both men have since retired.





Young Marines

Fellow Marines,

At present, the number of Annapolis Young Marines stands at 12 Young Marines and 5 Recruits. We start our re-enrollment this month and all current members are staying with the program. We also plan on graduating all of our recruits in September.

The new training year will start in October and we are now accepting applications for the October recruit class.

I am proud to say that YM SSGT **Skylar Wisomierski** has received a scholarship and been accepted for enrollment at **Valley Forge Military Academy** in Pennsylvania. He reports on the 26th to start his Plebe week – we all remember what that is like. Right guys?

Respectfully,

George Martin

Young Marines Commander



VA Volunteerism

by Ed Dahling

A new online version of the **VA Application for Health Benefits, VA Form 10-10EZ**, is now available. The new and improved online form makes it easier for veterans to complete the form. Also, veterans will now be able to save a partially completed form on their computer, and return to finish it at a later time. Previously, a veteran was required to start all over if they were unable to finish an application because of an interruption or needing time to find additional documents. For more information, go to the Improved Online 10-10EZ application – available on the Internet at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>.

With the recent **Priority Group 8 Enrollment Relaxation**, and other ongoing evaluation and changes by VA, you may now be eligible to enroll with VA for health care services. You can apply for care by completing **VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits**, and the VA will inform you of those health care benefits for which you qualify.

If you need more assistance, you may call the VA toll free (on Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Eastern Time) at **1-877-222-8387**.



Request from a Marine Family Member

NOTE – The following request was relayed to me by our Chaplain. Please contact Chaplain Webster should you have any questions.

Hello, my name is **Frank Vogel**. I have a son-in-law, **Lt. Colonel Seipt**, who is in Afghanistan, and this is the 5th time that he has been in a combat zone. He emailed me the other day and was down because they lost some guys, he takes this hard and so do I.

He said that he wished that they (he and his friends) had enough baseball gloves for two teams to have a game! They work seven days a week but in their off time have nothing to do! Baseball... How American can we get? All that they are doing for us and all that they ask is to play a game of baseball. Maybe, readers of this message, who may have an old glove or bat would be willing to donate them! Any help would mean a lot to these brave men and women. It would be nice to know that baseball is alive and well in Camp Leatherneck.

I sent this letter to the **Baltimore Orioles** and they responded that they donate to regional charities only; but, they would send him a banner. I think they (the Orioles) didn't get it right! The region is America! It's about baseball – our national pastime – that they care about. It's about our families growing up in a free America thanks to them and the ones that came before them! It's about showing our military that we Americans have not forgotten them. It's a neat way to do it! It's Baseball! Thanks again for letting me rant. I hope it helps.

Frank Vogel

The Teams



NOTE from our Chaplain...

Some of the equipment they are using came from us. I collected \$75.00 cash, 1 glove, 8 bats, 6 baseballs, 12 softballs, a new football and pump... 1 or 2 cases of new baseballs will be coming soon.

When I gave the equipment to Mr. Vogel, to send to his son-in-law... I also enclosed a letter from our detachment along with one of our patches. By the way, the money collected was used to send the equipment to the Marines (see picture above). I felt proud of you, my fellow Marines, for helping our brothers (and sisters).





From The Post Commander



To My Fellow Marines in Detachment 1049;

As the new VFW Post 160 Commander, I would like to share some insight with you about this post.

The VFW consists of 3 groups.

VFW Member: Veterans who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States, and...

- a. in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition in service that has been recognized as a campaign medal service, or
- b. on the Korean Peninsula or in territorial waters for at least 30 consecutive days or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949, or
- c. in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger under US Code Title 37, Section 310.

Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW: Membership is limited to wives, widows, mothers, step-mothers, grandmothers, daughters, foster and step-daughters, sisters, half-sisters, and foster and step-sisters.

Men Auxiliary to the VFW: Membership is limited to husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers and half-brothers.

So, if you are interested in becoming a member of the post, please contact me. You may ask, why would I want to join? The primary reason you may want to join is to support the home post, which by the way is your home (home of MCL Detachment 1049 & MODD Pound 204).

This post is making every effort in ensuring that this is your home, just as it is the home of the VFW members. The only distinctions being made are those required by the National VFW By-Laws and the IRS Regulations which govern our 501 tax exempt status.

Our detachment 1049 and Pound 204 are not charged rent for space for meetings or other social events. The post has provided a place where you can display your Detachment and Pound recognitions. Storage space and dedicated office space has been provided. Marines have the same use of all facilities and equipment as the members of the VFW. So what does the Detachment and Pound do for the post? There are a small number of Marines, who through the years, come in every Saturday and Sunday morning to clean the post. Members of the detachment and pound also make a number of other donations to the VFW every year.

It would be a great benefit to the well being of VFW Post 160 if every person, who qualifies, joins the post as a member. The post needs both membership equity and sweat equity to remain a healthy and vibrant post. Also if you are a member, you don't have to sign in when you come into the canteen. The more you become involved with the post, the better it is for the Detachment and Pound. A benefit for the post and VFW members will almost in every case be a benefit for the Detachment and Pound members!

Think about it,

Peter A. Pervi

Post 160 Commander



Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

Stop-Loss Allowance – Funds (average of up to \$3,700) are available through the **Stop-Loss Allowance Program** for those veterans eligible, whose separation or retirement was involuntarily extended between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009. The money owed members of the armed services is considered **'Back Pay'** and should be claimed. **This program will end on October 21, 2010.** Contact the **Defense Department** at www.defense.gov/stoploss or the **Maryland VA**, in Baltimore, at **410-230-4444** or **800-446-4926** for additional information.

Post-9/11 GI Bill – The Post-9/11 GI Bill continues down a troubled road. The trouble is veterans, under the plan, who are seeking an education, have not been receiving their correct living stipend payments in a timely fashion. According to the VA, the problem is **outdated computer software**, which has not been able to accommodate the increased housing allowance rates. The VA and Congress point fingers in both directions as to who should be held accountable. Corrections to be made.

Guard/Reserve Recognition – The **Honor America's Guard Reserve Retirees Act** (HR 3787/S 1780) simply defines *veterans of all reserve components* (to include Guard and Reserve members), who qualify for, but are not yet receiving, retirement pay **Gray Area Retirees**. There is no monetary benefit; the act is simply recognition of you, the veteran.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Three members of our detachment (**Manny Airey, Jim Brady, and Mac McNeir**) attended a ceremony, hosted by the **Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**, at the **State House** honoring nine disabled Maryland veterans.

Wayne Beachy, USMC	Arnold Beard, USAF	Patrick Burns, USA
Ventura Catala, USA	Michael Delaney, USAF	Karl Dorman, USA
James Jones, USA	Clarence Mattison, USA	Andre Wells, USA

These veterans participated in the following events: **The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Golden Age Games, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.**



The lone Marine among the honorees was given a hearty “**Oooooorah!**” by our normally soft-spoken members when recognized for his accomplishments by **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. Marine honoree **Beachy** later mentioned that he was truly touched by the vocal outburst.



Lt. Governor Brown, Mrs. Wayne Beachy, Wayne Beachy (USMC Honoree), and Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Chow Jr. [Photo – Brian Slack, Maryland Governor’s Office Photographer]

On the evening of **Saturday, July 24th**, **VFW Post 160’s Post Commander, Pete Pervi** (our Junior Past Commandant) hosted his inaugural **Commander’s Steak Nite** at the post. It was well attended and the food was good. I am happy to report that many members of other organization’s (including our detachment), who use the post facilities, were amongst the diners. Check our **Coming Events** calendar (see page 12) for the date and time of the next dinner and make an effort to attend... you will not be disappointed. Of course, your attendance also demonstrates tangible support for the VFW, whose members assist us in many of our own charitable endeavors.

As indicated, within the **Coming Events** calendar, there is a **Post Clean-Up Day** scheduled for **Sunday, September 12, 2010**. There are a number of house-keeping and repair tasks that need to be addressed; however, the number of tasks that can be adequately addressed is dependent upon the number of volunteers appearing on September 12th prepared to work. Let’s be sure that we as Marines do our part! As the date approaches, check the post bulletin boards for more information. Also see the **Post Clean-Up** article on page 4.

The construction phase of the **Marine Corps League Office** at **VFW Post 160** is nearing completion. Once the floor is laid, and final clean-up is accomplished, we will begin the furnishing phase of this project. Please contact the Detachment Commandant if you should have any serviceable office furniture & accessories – file cabinets, desk, office chair, etc. – that you would be willing to donate.



Semper Fideles
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Department of Maryland
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

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www.curtinautomotive.com

Obtaining DD-214 Copies

NOTE – The following information was obtained from the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website.

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five veteran cemeteries, VA claims, and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families.

World War II veterans, who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into the service, and veterans who were discharged after October 15, 1979 and had a Maryland address at the time of discharge, can contact the Baltimore Office at **800-446-4926 ext. 6450** to inquire if that office has a copy of their discharge papers.

Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's **DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty** from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Information on requesting a copy of a service member's DD-214 can be accessed via the web at the [National Archives](http://NationalArchives.gov) web site. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact the National Archives for instructions on how to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis at:

The National Archives & Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

1-866-272-6272 or 1-86-NARA-NARA
Fax: 301-837-0483
TDD lines for College Park, MD: 301-837-0482



Help Still Needed!

Certificates of Appreciation for two corporate contributors to our **5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** remain undelivered. Would anyone with ties to either of the following organizations please contact me.

- Accutech Corporation
- Service First Consulting

Thanks & Semper Fi,

Mac

Quotation

“What really scares the dickens out of me is the strategist who's never had to put body bags on a helicopter.”

James Mattis
General USMC

Corps Humor

MOS's (Career Fields)

- Marines** All Marines shall be considered riflemen first and foremost.
- Army** It doesn't matter, as all career fields promote to E-8 in first enlistment anyway.
- Navy** Nobody knows. The Navy is still trying to figure out what sailors within the ABH, SMC, BNC and BSN rates do anyway.
- Air Force**.... Every recruit will be trained in a manner that will allow them to leave the service early in order to go on to higher paying civilian jobs.



Need A Ride?



This message is for any of our members, who have not been able to attend our monthly meetings because they are in need of transportation.

If you would like to attend future detachment meetings; but, are in need of transportation, please contact me or our Chaplain and we will attempt to arrange a ride with a member living near you.

We Take Care of Our Own – Semper Fi,

Mac



VFW Family Picnic

A **VFW Family Picnic** will be held on **Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 1:00 PM**. The picnic is for the VFW family and all of the other great organizations operating out of the VFW Post 160 facility – the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary, VFW Men's Auxiliary, Marine Corp League & Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cooties, Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary, etc.

There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, sodas, and water provided; however, families, who plan to attend, are asked to contribute some kind of a dish.

There will be games and plenty for all ages to do. We are hoping that it will be a great turn out and that everyone gains the acquaintance of someone new.

If you have any other questions please contact me...

Jennifer Sachs @ jennifers@lookingglassoptical.com.





Stolen Valor Act Ruled Unconstitutional

NOTE – Following article appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times authored by Dan Elliott of the Associated Press and published on July 17, 2010

DENVER – A law that **makes it illegal to lie about being a war hero is unconstitutional because it violates free speech**, a federal judge ruled Friday as he dismissed a case against a Colorado man who claimed he received two military medals.

Rick Glen Strandlof claimed he was an ex-Marine who was wounded in Iraq and received the Purple Heart and Silver Star, but the military had no record that he had ever served. He was charged with violating the **Stolen Valor Act**, which makes it a crime punishable by up to a year in jail to falsely claim to have won a military medal.

U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn dismissed the case and said the law is unconstitutional, ruling the government did not show it has a compelling reason to restrict that type of statement.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney in Denver said prosecutors are reviewing the decision and haven't decided whether to appeal. The spokesman said that decision would be made by the U.S. Justice Department in Washington and prosecutors in Denver.

Strandlof's lawyer didn't immediately return our call.

The law has also been challenged in California and a case is now before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Denver attorney **Christopher P. Beall**, who filed a *friend-of-the-court* brief for the **American Civil Liberties Union** of Colorado, said the Stolen Valor Act is fatally flawed because it doesn't require prosecutors to show anyone was harmed or defamed by the lie.

"The government position was that any speech that's false is not protected by the First Amendment. That proposition is very dangerous," Beall said.

"It puts the government in a much more powerful position to prosecute people for speaking out on things they believe to be true but turn out not to be true," he said.

Beall said the ACLU was not defending the actions Strandlof is accused of, but took issue with the principle behind the law.



Hadithah Investigator Leaves Corps

NOTE – The following Associated Press article appeared in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on July 20, 2010.

CAMP PENDLETON, CA – A Camp Pendleton Marine officer, who was accused of failing to investigate the killings of 24 Iraqis by a squad in the town of Hadithah, has left the Corps.

Attorney Jon Shelburne said that **Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Chessani's** last day in the Corps was Friday.



Lt. Col. Chessani

[Photo by Cpl. Adam C. Schnell / Marine Corps]

Shelburne said Monday that **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus** recently upheld a ruling that the former battalion commander displayed substandard performance in response to the deaths but should maintain his rank.

Chessani, of Rangely, Colorado, was accused of failing to investigate the 2005 killings, but a judge dismissed a charge of dereliction of duty.

In all, eight Marines were charged with murder or failure to investigate. Six had charges dropped or dismissed, and one was acquitted. The squad leader faces reduced charges of voluntary manslaughter and other crimes.





Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

1 August 1944

After nine days of fighting in a battle termed "*the perfect amphibious operation of World War II*," **Major General Harry Schmidt**, commander of V Amphibious Corps, declared the island of Tinian secured.

2 August 1950

1st Marine Provisional Brigade lands at Pusan, South Korea.

3 August 1950

Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed "**Black Sheep**" squadron of World War II executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon.

6 August 1847

Marines commenced their march on the "**Halls of Montezuma**" in Mexico.

7 August 1942

1st Marine Division lands on Guadalcanal.

7 August 1990

President Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force. One week later the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to Operation Desert Shield – the largest deployment of U.S. forces since Vietnam.

9 August 1942

With the Guadalcanal air-strip secure after heavy fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment.

14 August 1912

Major Smedley D. Butler leads Marines ashore, beginning intervention in Nicaragua.

14 August 1945

President Truman announced Japan's unconditional surrender.

17 August 1942

2nd Marine Raider Battalion under **Lt. Colonel Evans F. Carlson** landed on Makin Island and destroyed a seaplane base, two radio stations, a supply warehouse, and killed about 100 Japanese troops.

19 August 1919

Marines Hymn registered with the U.S. Copyright Office.

21 August 1968

PFC James Anderson, Jr., posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam – the first African-American Marine to do so.

(continued in adjacent column)

24 August 1814

Captain Samuel Miller's 114-man detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, fought in the Battle of Bladensburg in defense of our nation's capital.

25 August 1990

7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade begins Persian Gulf buildup.

29 August 1916

The Marine Corps Reserve was founded.



Replacing Military Records

by Ed Dahling

If discharge or separation documents are lost, veterans or the next of kin of deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by completing forms found at the following Internet address www.archives.gov/research/index.html and then mailing or faxing the completed forms to the **National Personnel Records Center**.

Alternatively, write to the...

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Specify that a duplicate separation document is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates and years of service. **Use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records."**

It is not necessary to request a duplicate copy of a veteran's discharge or separation papers solely for the purpose of filing a claim for VA benefits. If complete information about the veteran's service is furnished on the application, VA will obtain verification of service.





Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through December of 2010. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at VFW Post 160, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, 22 August 2010 @ 1000 – *Paul Taylor*

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 23 August 2010 @ 1900

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Friday Night Dinner, MCL Detachment 1049

Friday, 3 September 2010 from 1800 to 2000 – *Rich Gonzales*

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 5 September 2010 from 0800 to 1200

Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

MCL, Department of MD Staff Meeting

American Legion Post in Easton, MD

Saturday, 11 September 2010 @ 0900 – *Bud Raines*

MODD Maryland Pack Growl

American Legion Post in Easton, MD

Saturday, 11 September 2010 @ 1300 – *Paul Taylor*

VFW Post 160 Family Picnic

Saturday, 11 September @ 1300 – *Jennifer Sachs*

VFW Post 160 Clean-Up

Sunday, 12 September 2010 from 0800 to 1800 – *Pete Pervi*

Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 19 September 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 27 September 2010 @ 1900

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 3 October 2010 from 0800 to 1200

Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

Bull & Oyster Roast, MCL Detachment 1049

Sunday, 10 October 2010 @ from 1300 to 1800

Chris Thompson

Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

Saturday, 16 October 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 25 October 2010 @ 1900

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Children's Halloween Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday, 30 October 2010 from 1300 to 1500

Friday Night Dinner, MCL Detachment 1049

Friday, 5 November 2010 from 1800 to 2000 – *TBD*

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 7 November 2010 from 0800 to 1200

Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

USMC Birthday Observance, MCL Det. 1049

Wednesday, 10 November 2010 @ 1800

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Marine Corps Birthday Ball, MCL Detachment 1049

Saturday, 13 November 2010

Cocktail Hour 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Ceremony 7:00 to 7:45 PM

Dinner 7:45 to 8:45

Dancing/Socializing 8:45 PM to MIDNIGHT (?)

James Brady (202-314-1782)

Mike Hadley (410-551-1596)

Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

Saturday, 20 November 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 22 November 2010 @ 1900

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Thanksgiving Dinner, VFW Post 160

Thursday, 25 November 2010 (All Day) – *Pete Pervi*

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 5 December 2010 from 0800 to 1200

Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

Children's Christmas Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday, 11 December 2010 from 1300 to 1500

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, 19 December 2010 @ 1000 – *Paul Taylor*

Christmas Party, VFW Post 160

Friday, 24 December 2010 from 1200 – 1800 – *Pete Pervi*

Christmas Day

Post Closed

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 27 December 2010 @ 1900

Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

New Year's Eve Party, VFW Post 160 (includes breakfast)

Friday, 31 December 2010 – Saturday, 1 January 2011



End of One Era... *(continued from page 1)*

“I will be very sad to see the Phrog go. I don’t think anybody anywhere will get the bang for the buck they had out of this platform,” said Oneto, who is doing his third stint with the squadron.

HMM-165 will be serving in the western Pacific and Persian Gulf with a reinforced air combat element of Harrier jets and other helicopters. The Pelelieu with other vessels in the task force are carrying more than 3,000 sailors and Marines from the Navy’s Amphibious Squadron 3 and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Pendleton .

When the Pelelieu’s deployment ends, some of its Sea Knights will fly directly to the bone-yard. The remainder will spend a few twilight years with other squadrons until the Marine Corps completes its transition to the long-awaited and controversial **V-22 Osprey**, a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off like a helicopter but flies like a plane.



V-22 Osprey Medium-Lift, Multimission, Tilt-Rotor Aircraft

The CH-46 has been a major player in Marine aviation since **Gerry Berry**, now a retired Colonel, used one to fly the U.S. Ambassador out of **Saigon** in 1975. Last month, Berry recounted the episode, when that restored helicopter – **Lady Ace 09** – was put on display at the **Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, California**. It should be pointed out that at one time, Colonel Berry also belonged to Squadron HMM-165.

Once HMM-165 completes its assignment aboard the Pelelieu, its colors will be folded and a newly christened squadron of **White Knights, VMM-165**, will train to fly the Osprey.

Despite many fond memories, Colonel Oneto and other longtime CH-46 pilots are embracing the Ospreys.

Colonel Roy A. Osborn, commander of the Marines deploying with the Pelelieu, is also a CH-46 pilot, who helped develop the Osprey program from 1999 to 2002 at Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, Va. Colonel Osborn said of the Osprey, “*It is a quantum leap forward in capability... It far outreaches the range, speed and payload of the 46.*”

Osborn said the Osprey was designed to take a beating in combat, and its fuel capacity and cruising speed of about 288 mph – nearly twice as fast as the CH-46 – shrinks the size of the battlefield: If the bad guys are shooting, the Osprey can fly high above or far around them, and it can transport more wounded service members to hospitals than its pokier predecessors.

“I hate to see the Phrog go because she’s a great aircraft. Forty-plus years old and still singing. I have flown in five conflicts in that aircraft,” Osborn said. *“But it is time to park it on a stick in a museum and let the V-22 take the lead.”*

Critics have called the Osprey program a widow-maker and a boondoggle. The program was nearly terminated more than once, until the military finally approved full production in 2005.

The Government Accountability Office, the watchdog arm of Congress, reported a year ago that V-22s used in the Iraq war flew faster and farther than the helicopters they replaced. It also cited problems with de-icing equipment that could limit operations in harsh environments like Afghanistan; lack of an integrated weapons system; problems with maintenance and parts supply; decreased maneuverability on Navy ships; and cost overruns that boosted the price per Osprey to \$93.4 million. The GAO recommended that the defense secretary require an analysis of alternatives to the Osprey, but the Pentagon disagreed. Since then, the Marine Corps and Air Force, which uses the V-22 for special-forces missions, have deployed the Osprey in Afghanistan. Four people died there in April in an Air Force Osprey crash, the cause of which is under investigation.

The Osprey’s four crashes during its development claimed 30 more lives. Osborn said, *“That record is comparatively safe... We crashed over 100 ’46s in the first five years.”*

The Corps has switched all of its regular East Coast squadrons of CH-46s to Ospreys. Miramar’s first Osprey squadron, **VMM-161**, relinquished its helicopters last year and is now training to become fully operational on the tilt-rotors. By the time HMM-165 returns from the Pelelieu deployment, it will be the fourth squadron at Miramar in the Osprey pipeline.

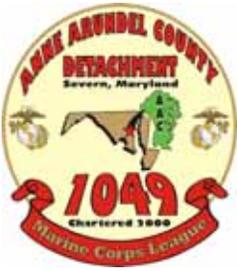
Pilots spend eight to 10 weeks in classroom and simulator training before completing Osprey instruction in North Carolina. The transition can take six months to two years.

The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, the umbrella aviation unit for the Marine Corps in Southern California, has four Ospreys. It expects to get at least one more each month until **Camp Pendleton** and **MCAS Miramar** are fully equipped with as many as ten Osprey squadrons between them.

For the CH-46 helicopter, this is the end of the line.

“There will be a lot of guys with tears in their eyes, and I will be one of them, when the final Phrog flies to the bone-yard...” Oneto said, *“Everybody loves what they fly.”*





Marine Corps League
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
PO Box 804
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804

(Address Correction Requested)



The Baltimore Korean War Veterans Honor Guard posts the colors during the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington on July 27th. The ceremony marked the 57th anniversary of the cease fire agreement between the United Nations forces, North Korea and China, effectively ending the Korean War.

[Photo – Headquarters USMC / LCpl Benjamin Harris]