

*the* **CUTTING EDGE**

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

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# FMF Corpsman Earns Silver Star



*NOTE - This article, by Sam Fellman, appeared in the online version of The Marine Corps Times on Monday July 18, 2011.*

When he saw a Marine in his squad fall, then-Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) **Jake Emmott** rushed headlong into insurgent gunfire to reach him. It was April 20, 2010, and Emmott's squad had fallen under heavy fire during a combat patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Emmott and other squad members lifted the wounded man and began moving him to a casualty collection point when one of the Marines was hit in the thigh. The rounds, coming in at about waist level, were increasingly accurate.

Ignoring the incoming bullets, Emmott dropped to his knee to tend to the second wounded Marine. That's when a bullet struck him in the head, according to his Silver Star citation.

When Emmott came to, blood was running from the entry wound on the side of his nose. He was choking on the blood and having difficulty speaking, but he refused morphine so he could direct the treatment of his Marines. He refused two stretchers, choosing to stagger to the helicopter on his own power so his wounded comrades in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, could be carried out.

A year later, Emmott, now an HM2, was presented with the Silver Star. Emmott was honored, along with fellow service members and caregivers, at the annual **Navy Safe Harbor Awards** ceremony July 14 outside Washington. The Safe Harbor program provides non-medical support for 688 wounded or ill sailors and Coast Guardsmen.

The award caps a remarkable turnaround for the 22-year-old from Wakefield, R.I. After a year of surgeries and rehab, Emmott is on track to recover.

The injuries were severe. The bullet pierced Emmott's sinus cavity and exited behind his left ear, narrowly missing the vital carotid artery. Surgeons removed a third of his skull to relieve pressure on his swelling brain.



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Jake Emmott receives the Silver Star from Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jon Greenert.  
[Photo - MC3 Matt Dickinson / USN]

*(see FMF Corpsman... on page 9)*

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# the **CUTTING EDGE**

- Published Monthly
- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.

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- Toys for Tots Coordinator – *Vacant*
- VAVS Officer – *Vacant*
- Web Sergeant – *Michael R. Hadley*
- Young Marines Commander – *George Martin*



## Award Winner

Marine Corps League  
 National Newsletter Competition  
 (Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

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



## From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

I am embarrassed for having printed a few erroneous *points-of-contact* in the **Coming Events** column of the July newsletter. The proofreader (me) has been severely chastised for this most grievous offense.

I also forgot to mention, in last month's issue, an event that took place after the recent **Sgt Jason Ross USMC EOD Injuries Foundation Golf Tournament** awards presentation. A team of four gentlemen from Annapolis won a free round of golf at the **Queenstown Harbor Golf Course**; however, they decided that four Marines from earlier eras were far more deserving of the award and presented their prizes to **Manny Airey, Pete Pervi, Woody Bowman, and me**. Needless to say we were surprised and extremely appreciative of their generosity. We did not shoot well enough to win anything; but, after teeing off on what was our 14th hole, the tournament photographer commented that of all the teams that she had watched during the course of play, our team hit the best group of tee shots that she had seen on that hole all day... yes, we did get the birdie!

Hope to see many of you at our next meeting... try to bring a prospective new detachment member with you.

The deadline for receipt of all **September newsletter** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Monday, September 12, 2011. Please do not wait until the last minute!**



## Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72 *	8	5
Annual Memberships	38	6	-
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	7 **	-	-
New Members			
	-	-	-
Sub-Totals			
	117 ***	14	5
<b>Total</b>			
	136		

\* Reflects death of J. Glandon  
 \*\* Reflects death of D. Boschert  
 \*\*\* Reflects 1 member yet to be sworn in

Renewals are approaching for the following non-delinquent members...

RENEWALS		
(dues expire at end of indicated month)		
September 2011	October 2011	November 2011
Walter Cooper Frank Zupancic	Albert Bell James Galvin Scott Neff Ray Sturm	Danielle Campbell Samuel Campbell James McCormick Kurt Osuch

Please consider a **Life Membership** as a potential cost reduction.

# Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

I hope everyone is keeping cool during these hot days we've been having. This last month has been quiet with no Detachment activities outside of our monthly meeting. It's the calm before the storm I suppose.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, **I will not be able to assume the position of Toys for Tots coordinator** due to changes in my work responsibilities. If anyone is interested in taking the position, give me a call. But this needs to happen quickly, as **attendance at the annual Toys for Tots Coordinator Conference (9/15 – 9/18 2011) is mandatory for coordinators.**

At the last meeting, we had a few examples of **golf-style shirts** are available for purchase. These are nice shirts and I recommend everyone get themselves a shirt (or two) and show off their MCL Detachment 1049 pride. It's also a great way for us to be recognized in the community. There is an advertisement on page 14 that provides additional information about these shirts.

Until our next meeting, be safe and stay cool. I would like to see everyone in attendance.

*Semper Fi,*

*Joe*

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



## Navy vs So. Miss.



Join your fellow MCL Members for a great afternoon of fun and camaraderie!

**When.....** Saturday, October 8th at 3:30 PM

**Where.....** Navy-Marine Corps Stadium

**Cost.....** \$25.00 per person

- Each detachment is responsible for its own transportation
- To reserve tickets, contact Jeff Hampton at 240-291-6832, by no later than Wednesday, August 31, 2011.
- Kickoff is at 3:30 PM; but, you should plan on arriving about two hours earlier if you wish to see the Midshipmen march on to the field and other pre-game activities.

*Event sponsored by the Department of Maryland's  
Mountainside Marines Detachment 1071*

# Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



**1st Rule of Marine Warfare... Only bring  
ARTILLERY if you want to kill everybody!**

From the desk of the

# Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Kalwa

Fellow Marines,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and doing well during these hot summer months. I just want to touch on what was said at last month's meeting. Tickets for the **Bull and Oyster Roast** are being printed and should be ready around the 3rd week of August. Anyone who has ideas, contacts, or connections for door prizes for this event are encouraged to contact either **Commandant Joe Wright** or **me**.

Keep cool and stay hydrated.

Semper Fi,

**Chris Kalwa**

From the desk of the

# Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Fellow Detachment Members,

As of this newsletter, our total membership stands at **136** members. That sounds like a lot; but, do you know that we have **104 members on our inactive list**? We must do everything we can to (1) get more members to join our detachment, and (2) bring inactive members back aboard.

Equally as important is the need to encourage more of our current membership to become more active in our events – both as workers and participants. That will allow us to better fulfill our mission as well as build upon our reputation in the community and at all levels of the League.

Finally, If you would like to become a life member, here are the fees are by age:

35 and under .....	\$500.00
36 to 50 .....	\$400.00
51 to 60 .....	\$300.00
61 and over .....	\$150.00

Semper Fi,

**Ed Dahling**



Since this column did not exist before its initial appearance in the **July 2011** issue of *the Cutting Edge*, I believe that I need to report upon the achievements of one of our detachment members at **Marine Corps League Service Rifle Tournament** held on 28-29 May 2011, which was sponsored by the Marine Corps League's **Department of New York**

**Ray Sturm** shot in the **4 Position Slow Fire Match** and placed **6th out** of 22 competitors.

The Pistol Team is always looking for shooters; so, please contact Team Captain **Jake Jahelka** should you be interested.



*The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League*

Woof-Woof,

Although the dog days of summer are still upon us, it is time to get back into the swing of Devil Dog business.

The **Supreme Growl** is history and I suspect all who attended, had a great time. Wish I could have been there.

**Dues for all annual dues paying members expire on 31 August.** If this pertains to you, please remit 15 big bones to your friendly Pound Dog Robber (me) ASAP. Make check out to **MODD Pound 204**.

Pound 204 will growl on **14 August** at the Dog House at 1000; breakfast at 0900, Bloody-Marys at 0800.

Mongrel sponsors make sure you have your mongrels report to the **Mad Dog (DD Woody Bowman)** NLT 0800 for special instructions. Make sure they bring plenty of big bones.

At the August growl, the Pound will be electing new officers. Throw your hat into the ring and get involved. It is a lot of fun. Our faithful **Dog Trainer (PDD Halme)** has indicated that he cannot run for re-election due to family and health reasons. The Dog Trainer is a relatively easy position: praying over the Dogs, attending to sick and injured Dogs, and reporting on Dogs called to the Supreme Dog in the sky.

Pups, remember, in order to be advanced next year in Ocean City, you must attend two Pound Growls prior to the Grand Growl. So don't delay. Attend all the Pound Growls.

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

Woof-Woof,

**Paul Taylor**

PDD & Dog Robber



## Chaplain's Corner

by the Editor for Chaplain Ken Webster

Please contact me at either of the following numbers as soon as you learn of any detachment member or a family member, who is sick, in distress, etc.

410-255-0741 (home) or 443-618-9641 (cell)

**John J. Glandon** – a Life Member of our detachment since 2006, passed away on June 10, 2010. John's son called recently to inform me of his father's passing; however, he did not provide any other details.

Please keep the persons noted above and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



## Wreaths Across America Needs You!

*NOTE – This article appeared in the July/August issue of SEMPER FI, The Magazine of the Marine Corps League.*



This Christmas will mark the 20th anniversary of the **Wreaths Across America Program**, founded by **Morill Webster**, owner of **Worcester Wreath in Harrington, ME**. For the first 14 years, the company donated 5,000 wreaths a year. After a Pentagon photographer snapped a photo of the wreaths in snow in 2005, the program exploded.

“With the help of thousands of patriots, the numbers have grown from 5,000 to 220,000. This past Christmas, 24,000 wreaths were placed at **Arlington** and nearly 200,000 more were placed on veterans' graves at **550 cemeteries across the country** and overseas,” Worcester says. This year's goal is to place a wreath on every one of Arlington's more than 225,000 graves – as well as on veterans' graves in nearly 600 other cemeteries. Worcester Wreath is still the largest donor, but to reach this goal it will take an effort by many individuals.

If you would like to help, go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) to donate, or write to **Wreaths Across America, PO Box 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04623**. “We are going to really need your help to make it a reality, but it will happen,” Worcester says.



## 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 **September** include:

Jeffrey Clark

Vic Halme

Walter Johnston

Scott Mione

John Purcell

David Williams



## Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

### *Military Retirement Faces Overhaul*

Some in DOD are pushing to dump the current retirement system and replace it with a version of **Thrift Savings Plans (TSPs)** similar to those currently offered to federal employees. This plan would allow DOD to save money by making contributions to a civilian style 401(k) retirement plan.

According to some reports, DOD would also use the new retirement plan as leverage or incentive by offering increased contribution rates for those who opt for *multiple deployments, hardship assignments, and high demand or unpopular military occupations*. In addition, service branches could use it to entice service members to retire early or stay in longer.

Unlike past changes to the military retirement plan, which shielded current service members from the changes, the plan presented by the **Defense Business Board** would not grandfather current service members. ***This plan would go into effect immediately and includes current and future service members.***

Under that plan, new recruits would start immediately earning TSP contributions; but, would have no incentive to stay in the military for 20 or more years since they would not get a fixed-benefit pension. Current service members would begin receiving TSP contributions immediately and would earn a graduated percentage of their pay if they stay in the military for 20 years or more years. Their fixed pension rate would be based on their years of service when the new plan kicks in. For example, a service member who has 15 years of service would get 37.5 percent of their base pay at 20 years in addition to the new TSP contributions.

Some see this as a way to make the system more flexible or fair to those who serve less than 20 years and a great way to reduce the overall cost of military retirement.





# Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

## More Publicity...

In the hope of increasing the visibility of our detachment, I recently submitted photos of our **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament**, which took place on May 13th for inclusion in a future issue of the League's **Semper Fi** magazine.

I will also be on the look-out for opportunities to submit relevant articles and information into community newspapers such as the **Severna Park** and **Pasadena Voice**.

## New Restaurant – Reminder

From **Pete Pervi** – A new restaurant will be opened by two local restaurateurs – **Steve Newton** and **Bill Kraus** – on **September 11, 2011** to commemorate the **10th Anniversary of 9-11**. Bill Kraus has a son in the USMC, who is currently serving in the Middle East.

The restaurant, which will be named **Mission BBQ**, will be located at **7748 Ritchie Highway** in **Glen Burnie** and will of course feature barbecue. Detachment members are encouraged to meet at the restaurant on opening day – wear your red covers – to enjoy a BBQ dinner at the establishment. Our participation would be a fitting tribute to Marine Kraus and a heart-warming surprise for his father.

## Detachment Golf (Polo) Shirts

Efforts of **Commandant Wright** and **Adjutant Wells** have resulted in the availability of embroidered golf (polo) shirts for purchase by detachment members. Please see the ad on page 14 for details.

## Highlights of July Meeting

The **Annapolis Young Marines** are seeking the donation of **MREs** (*meals ready to eat*) or **C-Rations**. If you can aid in the fulfillment of this request, please contact **George Martin**.

**Tots for Tots** is again in need of a coordinator – a recent addition to the responsibilities levied upon our Commandant by his employer will prevent him from assuming this important role as he had planned. Of course, volunteers to staff the warehouse and to collect toys are needed as well. Activities associated with this worthy cause generally start immediately after Thanksgiving.

**VFW Car Show** – Since I failed to mention it in last month's issue, I would like to mention that Department of Maryland Commandant, **Ed Ross** thanked all detachment members at the June meeting, who contributed to the overwhelming success of the recent VFW Car Show. The efforts of these volunteers (and members of their families) raised **\$3995.40** for **VFW Post 160**.

**Bull & Oyster Roast** – Senior Vice Commandant, **Chris Kalwa**, announced that tickets were in the process of being printed and will be going on sale in **August**. Cost per person will be **\$35**.

## Newsletter Competition Results

Early in the morning of August 3rd, **William Ober**, **Chairman of the Marine Corps League's Newsletter Committee**, who is currently at the National Convention in Boise, notified me that **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** was judged to be the best (**#1**) in its division of the **2011 Newsletter Competition!** Thanks to all who helped make this *possible!*

## New Member's Gift

**Gabe Gutierrez** announced the contribution of **\$100** from his employer, **Herb Gordon Nissan** for his recent purchase of a new car. His employer will also donate **\$100** for each detachment referral to his dealership which results in a sale.





# Welcome Aboard



**Gabriel Gutierrez** was welcomed as our newest member at our detachment's July meeting.

Gabe and his wife **Quang** ('Sarah') are the proud parents of four children – sons **Russell** and **Nathan**, and daughters **Samantha** and **Xenna**. He is employed by **Herb Gordon Nissan**, where is a member of the sales staff.

A 'Mustang' who entered the Corps as an infantry man (0311), Gabe was commissioned in August of 2000, and subsequently retired as a Captain after having served three tours in Iraq as a navigator for the AH-1W (Super Cobra) helicopter. During his career Gabe was part of the operations that lead to the capture of dictators **Manuel Noreiga** and **Saddam Hussein**. A medically retired Marine, Gabe's service awards and decorations include the **Purple Heart**.

If you were not in attendance at our last meeting, please take the opportunity to introduce yourselves and welcome him aboard when you meet him at one of our detachment's activities.





# Obama OKs Medal of Honor for Living Marine

Dakota Meyer, a former corporal, will be honored for his heroics in Ganjgal, Afghanistan, in September 2009

*NOTE – This article is based upon a story by staff writer Dan Lamothe for the Marine Corps Times, which was published on its website on Tuesday July 19, 2011.*

A Marine who repeatedly braved enemy fire in eastern Afghanistan attempting to find and save fellow members of his embedded training team will receive the Medal of Honor, Marine Corps Times has confirmed.

**Dakota Meyer** was contacted by **President Obama** on Monday, according to sources with knowledge of the award. **He will be the first living Marine recipient of the nation’s highest award for valor since now – retired Sergeant Major Allan Kellogg received the medal for actions 41 years ago in Vietnam.**

Only two living recipients – both soldiers – have received the award for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan: **Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta** and **Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry**. **Cpl. Jason Dunham** is the only Marine to receive the medal for current conflicts, and he received it posthumously after throwing himself on a grenade in Husaybah, Iraq, in 2004 to save the lives of fellow Marines.

It’s unclear when Meyer, a scout sniper, will receive the medal. Officials at the White House and Marine Corps Headquarters declined to comment. The news was first reported Tuesday night on the website of *Leatherneck*, a publication produced by the **Marine Corps Association**. Marine Corps Times reported exclusively on November 8th that the Corps had nominated Meyer for the award.

Meyer, who left active-duty service in June 2010 as a corporal, will be honored for his actions on September 8, 2009. He charged into a kill zone on foot and alone to find three missing Marines and a Navy Corpsman, who had been pinned down under intense enemy fire in Ganjgal, a remote village near the Pakistan border in violent Kunar province. Already wounded by shrapnel, Meyer found them dead and stripped of their gear and weapons, and helped carry them from the kill zone, according to military documents obtained by *Marine Corps Times*. Meyer – who now lives in Austin, Texas – could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday night. In interviews with Marine Corps Times in November, he said he felt “*like the furthest thing from a hero*” because he did not find his fellow Marines alive. “*Whatever comes out of it, it’s for those guys,*” he said at the time. “*I feel like I let my guys down because I didn’t bring them home alive.*”

## Painful memories

The ambush conjures painful memories for many of those involved.

Killed in the battle were **Gunnery Sgts. Edwin Johnson**, 31, and **Aaron Kenefick**, 30; **1st Lt. Michael Johnson**, 25; and **Hospitalman 3rd Class James Layton**, 22; and an Afghan interpreter and at least eight Afghan security forces. Army **Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook**, 41, died October 7, 2009, at **Walter Reed Army Medical Center** in Washington from medical complications related to wounds he sustained in the attack.

The attack occurred during an early morning mission to meet with tribal elders in a village with a known insurgent presence. Thirteen U.S. service members, including Meyer, came under attack by at least 50 well-fortified insurgents armed with machine guns, assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. The Marines were with **Embedded Training Team 2-8**, out of Okinawa, Japan, while soldiers on the mission came from the **10th Mountain Division**, out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

In February 2010, Army officials announced that “*negligent*” leadership contributed “*directly to the loss of life*” on the battlefield that day by refusing repeated pleas for artillery support from U.S. forces on the ground and failing to notify higher commands that they had troops in trouble. Three unidentified officers were recommended for letters of reprimand, and Army officials later said they were delivered to two of them.

Two investigations of the incident were conducted, with the first headed by an Army major in the first few days after the ambush. The second, focusing primarily on command post failure, was overseen by **Army Colonel Richard Hooker** and **Marine Colonel James Werth** in November 2009, military officials said.



Former Cpl. Dakota Meyer is shown during predeployment training at Twenty-nine Palms, Calif. Marine Corps Times has learned that Meyer, praised for his heroics during a Sept. 2009 battle in Ganjgal, Afghanistan, will receive the Medal of Honor. [Photo from D. Meyer]

*(see MOH for Meyer... on page 8)*

## MOH for Meyer... *(continued from page 7)*

A full copy report of the investigation obtained by *Marine Corps Times* includes first-person statements from more than 35 U.S. service members, describing in grisly detail the chaos on the battlefield and in the operations center, based at **Forward Operating Base Joyce** and overseen by **Task Force Chosin**, an Army unit comprising soldiers from **1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division**.

Meyer, then 21, went into the kill zone on foot after helicopter pilots called on to respond said they could not help retrieve the four missing service members because the fighting on the ground was too fierce, according to a witness statement he provided the military. He found his buddies in a trench where pilots had spotted them.

*"I checked them all for a pulse. There [sic] bodies were already stiff,"* Meyer said in a sworn statement he was asked to provide military investigators. *"I found SSgt Kenefick facedown in the trench with his GPS in his hand. His face appeared as if he were screaming. He had been shot in the head."*

### Other awards

Several other service members involved in the battle already have received valor awards, including the four casualties that Meyer helped recover. The fallen Marines and Corpsman were honored with Bronze Stars with "V" device a year after their death for working together after they were pinned down to hold off the enemy, allowing a group of Afghan troops they were training to rejoin a larger group of coalition forces nearby. They fought until the death despite a barrage of fire.

Last month, **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus** awarded two other **ETT 2-8** Marines who survived with the Navy Cross – the nation's second highest award for valor. **Captain Ademola Fabayo**, 30, and **Staff Sergeant Juan Rodriguez-Chavez**, 34, were honored for acting heroically when *"the world became fire,"* Mabus said in a ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, near Quantico, Va.

Fabayo, then a First Lieutenant, is credited with braving enemy fire on foot to re-establish contact with the four missing service members, engaging insurgents at close range with his M4 carbine, and carrying Westbrook several hundred yards under fire to safety after the soldier had been shot in the neck and cheek.

Fabayo then drove back into the kill zone with another military adviser, **Army Captain Will Swenson**, in an unarmored truck in an attempt to reach the missing four-man team, which had led the element of U.S. service members on foot that day. Fabayo and Swenson were unable to reach them the first time, but evacuated and treated several wounded Afghan forces. Fabayo took the gunner's position in another vehicle and re-entered the kill zone again to help recover the bodies of the missing team, which at that point had been found by Meyer.

Rodriguez-Chavez was assigned to the unit's security element with Meyer. After hearing that U.S. forces were pinned down in the front of the element, he drove a Humvee into the kill zone three times to cover the withdrawal of U.S. and Afghan forces, while Meyer manned a machine gun turret on the vehicle. Meyer charged into the kill zone on foot afterward, despite sustaining a shrapnel wound to the arm while in the turret.

Once Meyer found the bodies, he joined Fabayo, Rodriguez-Chavez and Swenson for yet another mounted dash into the kill zone. Rodriguez-Chavez, the driver, positioned the vehicle to shield his fellow service members as they left the gun truck to retrieve the bodies. It was not clear whether Swenson is up for any high-valor award.

The Corps also honored **Gunnery Sgt. Chad Miller** with the Bronze Star with "V" in a June 29th ceremony at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is credited with manning an over-watch position for more than six hours, spotting targets for Afghan National Army counterparts and marking targets for aerial fire once helicopter air support arrived.

During the June 10 ceremony honoring Fabayo and Rodriguez-Chavez, Mabus referenced Meyer and Swenson directly, and said the Ganjgal story will be retold for ages at boot camp to new recruits. *"That story doesn't need any other explanation,"* Mabus said. *"Whatever words there are, they're not adequate in adding anything to the actions of that day."*





### 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 either our Chaplain or me and we will attempt to arrange a ride with a detachment member living near you.

***We Take Care of Our Own!***

*The Editor*



## FMF Corpsman... *(continued from page 1)*

"I had to go about six months with, the best way I can describe it, is a big dent in my head," Emmott recalled, explaining he now has a titanic plate on the left side of his skull.

Emmott is deaf in his left ear because it is permanently sealed, and the left side of his face is paralyzed. But control is starting to return, he said, after a nerve was transplanted in his face. He speaks well and his memory is returning after the post traumatic amnesia he suffered.

The next goal: returning to the Fleet Marine Force. Emmott left the **Wounded Warrior Barracks at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md.**, about a month ago and is back at **Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, N.C.** He said he hopes to return to duty with his Marines later this year.

His biggest challenge is getting in shape for the Marine physical fitness test after being bedridden for so long.

"I'm working out three times a week and that's at work," he said. "And then after that, I'll run or go to the gym or go swimming on my off hours as well."

Emmott said he is determined to get back to his old job, out in the field.

"After receiving such a grievous injury," Emmott said, "I would love to have a story that can hopefully be passed on to other service members who are going through a lot of the stuff I went through."

That dedication doesn't surprise his former battalion commander.

"There's no doubt in my mind that he'll come back to the Marine battalion or the regiment and he'll continue to serve the Marines," **Lt. Colonel Mike Manning** said after the ceremony.

**Sergeant Alan McAlister**, then Emmott's squad leader, saw him get shot.

"Initially, it was like, 'OK, he's dead,'" McAlister recalled thinking. "Focus on the firefight, getting everybody out of here. When he came back to life, it's like, 'Oh, here we go. This just got interesting.'"

Reflecting on the scene as Emmott staggered to the helicopter so others could be carried on the stretchers, **1st Lieutenant Scott Cook**, his former platoon commander said, "He was more worried about everybody else than about himself."

For his part, Emmott said having a sense of humor about his recovery has helped.

"I crack a lot of jokes about my injuries," he said, such as "Never really been that good at ducking."



## Corps Humor

### Time Management & Affairs

An architect, an artist and a Sergeant Major were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress.

The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship.

The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there.

The Sergeant Major said, "I like both."

"Both? Sergeant Major," inquired the civilians.

"Yeah. If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and then you will be able to go to your unit and get some work done."



## Color Guard

*by the Editor for Woody Bowman*

Our Color Guard's next commitment is for the ***Lost in the Fifties Car Club*** gathering on **Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM** in the **Marley Station Mall** parking lot at the **Route 2 & Marley Station Blvd.** entrance to the Mall.



**Marine Corps League**  
**Department of Maryland**

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

## Quotation

The American Marines have it [pride], and benefit from it. They are tough, cocky, sure of themselves and their buddies. They can fight and they know it.

### **General Mark Clark, U.S. Army**

Served in World Wars I & II and Korea, where he replaced Gen. Matthew Ridgeway as UN Supreme Commander

At the time (1945), became the youngest American to be promoted to general

# Corps F-35B Makes Demonstration Flight

Service officials say the **STOVL** variant of the **Joint Strike Fighter** is crucial to the Corps' future, noting that no '**Plan B**' exists!

*NOTE – This article, by Dave Majumdar appeared in the online version of The Marine Corps Times on Friday July 29, 2011*

Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.

In a graphic demonstration of the Marine Corps' strident support of its **F-35B** version of the tri-service Joint Strike Fighter, the service held the first-ever live demonstration of the aircraft's *short take-off and vertical landing* (VSTOL) capabilities before reporters on Friday.

Piloted by Marine **Lt. Colonel Fred Schenk**, the F-35B accelerated down the runway and lifted off in less than 450 feet. Once in the air, it flew past the assembled reporters and senior Marine Corps, Navy and industry brass at 60 knots airspeed. Schenk brought the plane, designated the **BF-1**, to a hover and landed it vertically.

The display was all the more impressive because it was made during a humid summer day when temperatures exceeded 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat and humidity reduce aircraft and engine performance.

Moreover, BF-1 is a test aircraft, not a mature production plane. That is not without risk and the service took precautions. Multiple aircraft had been prepared as back-ups, test pilots at the base said.

At least one backup aircraft, **BF-3**, flown by test pilot Marine **Lt. Colonel Matt Kelly**, went on to conduct a test sortie after BF-1 successfully flew its demonstration. **BF-4**, which is a mission systems test plane, was also on standby in case both aircraft aborted.

Marine Corps Commandant, **General Jim Amos**, himself an **F/A-18 Hornet** pilot, reiterated that the F-35B is vital to his service. The Corps' position is that the service has no backup plans if the F-35B does not make it though the two-year probation period that then-**Defense Secretary Robert Gates** placed upon the variant when it encountered technical problem and fell behind in flight testing.

*"There is no Plan B,"* Amos said. *"We need this airplane."*

Asked what would allow the F-35 to exit probation, Amos said that the exit criteria have not yet been set. But he voiced confidence the jet would meet whatever those requirements might be.

**Lt. General Terry Robling**, the service's deputy commandant for aviation, said the F-35B's progress in test flights since last year was "amazing." The F-35B caught up on last year's test points, and is now head of this year's flight test schedule, he said. Soon, in September, the F-35B will go to sea onboard the **USS Wasp (LHD 1)** an amphibious assault, he said.

Robling also expressed confidence that the STOVL version, which is the most expensive version of the jet, will come down in price as production increases.

*"As soon as that ramp goes up, the costs will start coming down dramatically,"* he said.

Robling and Amos both reiterated the Corps' argument that the service needs an aircraft that can be based anywhere, which is the primary requirement behind the F-35B. The F-35B model will allow the Navy and Marine Corps to effectively double the number of aircraft carriers in the fleet because amphibious assault ships would be able to carry strike aircraft.

However, the service is also buying five squadrons of the *carrier variant* **F-35C** model planes to support the Navy's carrier fleet. Robling said that even though the service is buying some 80 C-models, the F-35B can also operate from a Navy carrier.

The F-35B will also play in the DoD's Air-Sea Battle concept, Robling said. Despite sacrificing some range, the jet retains all the capabilities of the Air Force and Navy versions. The F-35B would also support the land component of Air-Sea by providing support to Marine ground operations with having to rely on a carrier, he said.

Robling reiterated the Marines' need for a fifth-generation fighter to counter emerging threats such as advanced Russian and Chinese aircraft.

*"It's absolutely the aircraft that we need to counter the fifth-generation aircraft that are coming online in places like China,"*

Robling said. *"If we take this fifth-generation aircraft away, there is not another one on the drawing boards in the United States."*



# Commandant's Reading List for All Marines!

*NOTE – This article, by Dan Lamothe (staff writer), appeared in the online version of The Marine Corps Times on Saturday, July 30, 2011.*



**Commandant James Amos** has released a new *professional reading list* for all Marines, and cracking open a book could now factor in more clearly at promotion time.

Each Marine *must read one book per grade per year*, Amos said in *AI-Mar 027/11* (all-Marine administrative message). That requirement isn't new, but the message also gives commanders discretion to determine whether the reading is being done.

Completion of reading requirements "*shall be noted in the individual Marine's proficiency/conduct (pro/con) remarks or fitness report, as appropriate,*" the message said.

*"I strongly encourage Marines to discuss and debate the issues raised by the books on this list to broaden their perspectives and benefit from the experience of others,"* Amos said. *"These discussions, conducted professionally, should unite Marines of varying ranks by providing a common literary frame of reference."*

The message emphasizes the Commandant's emphasis on self-education, said **Major Joseph Plenzler**, the Commandant's spokesman. Marines who fill out fit-reps (fitness reports) already are required to evaluate their subordinates on their overall commitment to professional military education.

*"Reading about the experiences of others in combat provides an excellent way for Marines of every rank to gain experience vicariously, as many of the accounts of human combat since the time of the ancient Chinese, Greeks and Romans to the present day [are] ready available,"* he said. *"This in turn enables them to make better decisions faster on a recognitional basis."*

Amos kept the late **Lieutenant General Victor 'Brute' Krulak's** "*First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps*" as the Commandant's *choice book*. Required reading for all Marines, it also was retired **Commandant James Conway's** top choice for Marines when the reading list was last updated in September 2009. Krulak, who died in 2008, commanded Marine forces in the Pacific region during the Vietnam War. He was the father of retired **General Charles Krulak**, who served as the 31st Commandant from July 1995 to June 1999.

The latest list also includes new offerings. For example, the list for Lance Corporals includes "*The 360 Degree Leader,*" by **John Maxwell**; "*The Afghan Campaign,*" by **Steven Pressfield**; "*My Men Are My Heroes,*" by **Nathaniel R. Helms**; "*Starship Troopers,*" by **Robert Heinlein**; "*The Ugly American,*" by **Eugene Burdick** and **William J. Lederer**; and "*We Were One,*" by **Patrick K. O'Donnell**. Only "*The Ugly American*" was listed for Lance Corporals when the list was updated in 2009.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EXPO!

On **September 27, 28, and 29**, the *Modern Day Marine Expo* will be held at **Quantico, Virginia**. The expo allows Marines to see the latest technology through exhibitor displays of new equipment prototypes, computer simulation, etc. that will enable Marines to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

This event is sponsored by the **Marine Corps League**, the **Marine Corps Systems Command**, and **Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia**. We need many volunteers from the MCL to help with stuffing give away bags, welcoming visitors and handing out those bags, and other tasks that will come up. When not working, you will have an opportunity to visit the exhibits, talk with vendors, and meet fellow Marines of many eras. It is a great experience that will make you glad you volunteered. If you would like to volunteer for one day (or multiple days), please let me know as soon as you can. You may contact me either by leaving me a note at the post, telephoning me at **410-375-0564**, or emailing me ([papervi@verizon.net](mailto:papervi@verizon.net)).

Thanks and Semper Fi,

**Pete Pervi**

# Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Linked to Dementia

Study shows veterans with PTSD more likely to develop Alzheimer's later in life

*NOTE – This article is based upon a report by Salynn Boyles for the WebMD Health News, which was recently published on the WebMD website. The original article was reviewed by Laura J. Martin, MD.*

Older veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are almost *twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and other age-related dementias as veterans without PTSD*, a study shows. The study is among the first to link combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder to dementia later in life, but it is not clear if having PTSD increases the risk for late-life dementias or if recurring PTSD is an early symptom of dementia in older veterans, **Deborah Barnes**, PhD, of the University of California, San Francisco tells WebMD. “We can't say from a study like this one that PTSD causes dementia,” she says. “But if it does, one theory is that stress is to blame.”

There is evidence that chronic stress may damage the hippocampus, which is the area of the brain that is critical for memory and learning.

Barnes and colleagues followed more than 180,000 mostly male older veterans for seven years, including just over 53,000 with a diagnosis of PTSD. None had dementia in late 2000, but roughly 31,000 (17%) had been diagnosed with the degenerative memory and thinking disorder by late 2007. The veterans with PTSD had about an 11% risk of developing dementia over the seven-year period, compared to about a 7% risk among veterans without the stress disorder. After adjusting for other risk factors related to the development of Alzheimer's disease and other late-life dementias, the veterans with PTSD were 77% more likely to develop dementia as those without it. This finding remained even after researchers excluded patients with a history of head injury, substance abuse, or clinical depression.

The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institute on Aging. It appears in the June issue of *Archives of General Psychiatry*.

“Just as with depression, it is common for people to cycle in and out of PTSD for many years or even decades,” Barnes says. “One message is that when we see PTSD symptoms in older veterans that could be a sign of other problems.” PTSD is common among young and old combat veterans, even decades after the fighting ends. In one study of older World War II and Korean veterans, as many as 12% were still reporting symptoms 45 years after their service ended. Studies of Vietnam veterans suggest that 10% to 15% still suffered from PTSD a decade and a half or longer after returning from combat.

In a recent study of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, 17% suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Psychiatrist **Gary Kennedy**, MD, who directs the division of geriatric psychiatry at New York's Montefiore Medical Center, says treating PTSD in wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will pose a particular challenge because so many have traumatic brain injuries due to exposure to roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs). “We have gotten very good at saving lives on the battlefield, but we are not so good at dealing with the brain injuries that occur as a result of IED exposure,” he tells WebMD. “It is a good bet that the risk for dementia is much higher when PTSD is complicated by brain injury.”

*EDITOR NOTE – In looking at various sources of information, it would seem that researchers now believe that stress, and the hormones released during stress, can accelerate the development of Alzheimer's Disease-like biochemical and behavioral pathology. According to a six-year study at the Stockholm Gerontology Research Center, stress can increase the risk of developing dementia. Researchers are now pursuing the premise that individuals having a rich social network and participating in physical, mental and social activities – may mitigate some of the stress induced dementia risk. Meditation to reduce stress is also a suggested course of action.*

#### Additional Information

- eHow health topics – Can Stress Cause Dementia?  
[http://www.ehow.com/how-does\\_5552453\\_can-stress-cause-dementia.html#ixzz1SZGcofbk](http://www.ehow.com/how-does_5552453_can-stress-cause-dementia.html#ixzz1SZGcofbk)
- Johns Hopkins Health Alerts  
[http://www.johnshopkinshealthalerts.com/register\\_ppc\\_memory/alzheimer\\_reg\\_landing.html?](http://www.johnshopkinshealthalerts.com/register_ppc_memory/alzheimer_reg_landing.html?)





## Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **November 28, 2011**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at **VFW Post 160**, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

*NOTE – The dates and times listed below are subject to change. Please verify the information with the indicated organizational point of contact.*

### **MODD Pound 204 Growl**

Sunday, August 14, 2011 @ 1000 – Mike Hadley / Paul Taylor

### **Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary**

Monday, August 22, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

### **Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049**

Friday, September 2, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

### **Monthly Breakfast, VFW**

Sunday, September 4, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Pete Pervi

### **Crab Feast, VFW Men's Auxiliary**

Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 1300 to 1800 – Gary Barnett

### **Department of MD Staff Meeting**

Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 0900 to 1100 – Ed Ross  
Detachment 1234, Oakland, Maryland

### **MODD Maryland Pack Growl**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 – immediately after Staff Mtg. – Ed Ross  
Detachment 1234, Oakland, Maryland

### **Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary**

Monday, September 26, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

### **Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary**

Friday, September 30, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker

### **Monthly Breakfast, VFW**

Sunday, September 4, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Pete Pervi

### **Detachment 1049 Bull & Oyster Roast**

Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 1300 to 1800 – Joe Wright

### **Marines Helping Marines Picnic**

(Sponsored by A. A. Co. Det. 1049 & Hound Dog Pound 204)  
Wednesday, October 26, 2011 – Tony Begenwald (301-262-4869)  
Mercy Hall, Bethesda National Naval Medical Center

### **Children's Halloween Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 1300 to 1500 – TBD

### **Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049**

Friday, November 4, 2011 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

### **Monthly Breakfast, VFW**

Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 0800 to 1100 – Pete Pervi

### **USMC Birthday Observance, Detachment 1049**

November 10, 2011, starting @ 1800 – Joe Wright

### **236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Detachment 1049**

November 12, 2011 from 1800 to MIDNIGHT – Chris Kalwa

### **Monthly Meetings, Detachment & Auxiliary**

Monday, November 28, 2011 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker



## Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

### **1 August 1960**

The Corps' *Enlisted Rank & Pay Structure Board* revised existing rank structure by incorporating the rank of Lance Corporal and the E-8 and E-9 Pay grades.

### **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 multi-national force. One week later the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to Operation Desert Shield – 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.

### **14 August 1990**

Advance elements of the 1st MEF and 7th MEB arrived in Saudi Arabia, joining other U.N. forces to defend against possible Iraqi aggression.

### **17 August 1942**

2nd Marine Raider Bn. 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. becomes first African-American Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam (posthumous award).

### **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 1948**

2nd Lieutenant John E. Rudder became the first black to be commissioned as a regular United States Marine Corps officer.

### **29 August 1916**

The Marine Corps Reserve was founded.



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## Embroidered Detachment Shirts

*Golf shirts – embroidered with the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor with Marine Corps League embroidered above and Dept of Maryland, A A Co Det 1049 embroidered below the emblem – are now available for purchase by detachment members.*



- Colors – Wide range of color choices
- Pockets – order either with or without pocket
- Materials – Pique or Jersey
- Sizes – Small through 6XL are available
- Cost – sized based...
  - \$18.80 each – for sizes Small through XL
  - Sizes larger than XL are an additional \$4 for each size increment. For example: a 2XL costs \$22.80, a 3XL costs \$26.80, etc.
- Embroidery Charge – \$6.60

Contact either **Commandant Joe Wright** or **Adjutant Ben Wells** to obtain additional information and/or place an order.

# Sunday Breakfast

VFW Post 160  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Every Month  
 0800-1100



## MENU

- Scrambled Eggs
- Home Fries
- French Toast  
(assorted toppings)
- Toast & Butter
- Sausage Gravy / Biscuits
- Bacon
- Ham
- Sausage Links
- Fruit Cocktail
- Coffee / Milk / Juice

## PRICE

\$8 for Adults / \$6 for Children (age 12 and under)

*Food prepared by Pete Pervi & his 'Pantry Posse'*



# 2011 MODERN DAY MARINE GOLF TOURNAMENT



2011 Modern Day Marine Golf Tournament to benefit the Young Marines and the Youth Physical Fitness Foundation.

The Gunnery R. Lee Erney will be on deck to support the Young Marines and the Youth Physical Fitness Foundation...will you?

DATE ..... September 26, 2011  
 LOCATION ..... Quantico's Medal of Honor Golf Course  
 BREAKFAST ..... 0800  
 TEE TIME ..... 0900  
 COST ..... \$125 per Golfer  
 TO SPONSOR ..... Contact Bridgette Barr at (703) 812-2784  
 or [bridgette.barr@nielsen.com](mailto:bridgette.barr@nielsen.com)

MODERN DAY  
**MARINE**  
 September 26, 2011  
 Quantico, VA



# November is fast approaching, as is the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball



Plan to share the ceremonies and social activities with your fellow detachment members on

**November 12, 2011!**

Ball details will be forthcoming in the September issue of *the Cutting Edge*.



# Mark Your Calendars!

so you won't miss out on the Annual A. A. Co. Detachment 1049

# Bull & Oyster Roast

**Sunday, October 23, 2011  
 1300 to 1800 - Joe Wright  
 \$35 per Person**

51 Mountain Road  
 Pasadena, MD 21122  
 1-800-556-8113

Mazda • Lincoln • Mercury

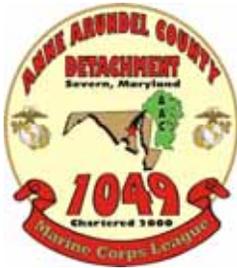


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**Severn, Maryland 21144-0804**

(Address Correction Requested)

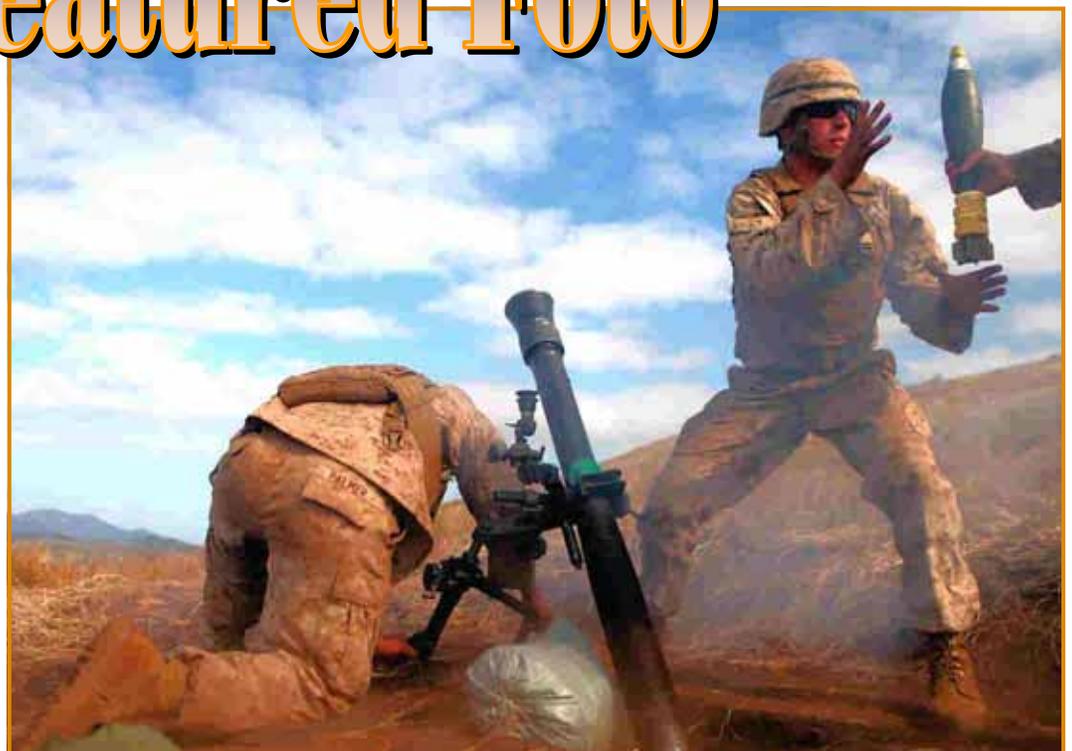


# Featured Foto

LCpl. Kyle J. Palmer (left) holds mortar tube steady as LCpl. Samuel E. Robertson (right) of the 81mm Mortars Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, grabs another mortar round during a joint live fire exercise, July 14, 2011.

Marines and Sailors of the 31st MEU were in Australia participating in exercise Talisman Sabre 2011. Talisman Sabre is the largest joint military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defense Force. Around 14,000 U.S. and 9,000 Australian personnel are participating.

This exercise will increase interoperability, flexibility, and readiness, all of which are force multipliers in maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



*NOTE This captioned photo appeared on the Marine Corps website – <http://www.marines.mil/Pages/Default.aspx> on 7/15/2011. Photo by LCpl Garry J. Welch. USMC*