

# the CUTTING EDGE

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

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## Begenwald Honored



Marines Helping Marines' East Coast Coordinator, Tony Begenwald receiving a plaque from the Marine Corps League's Department of Maryland Commandant Ed Ross during the recent testimonial dinner marking his recognition as the Maryland Joint Veterans Commission's 2012 Veteran of the Year. [ Photo by league member, Paul 'Doc' Gunther ]

*Story by Mac McNeir* – Many of us were recently fortunate enough to attend a very special gathering of veterans at a testimonial banquet for our own **Anthony J. 'Tony' Begenwald**. The occasion was a public proclamation of Tony's selection by the **Maryland Joint Veterans Commission** as their **2012 Maryland Veteran of the Year**. An honor bestowed because of Tony's selfless and tireless dedication to wounded Marines, Corpsman, etc. and their families.

The banquet was held on the afternoon of March 17th at **Bowie Elk's Lodge 2309** located in Gambrills, Maryland. It was extremely fitting that the more than amply-sized banquet hall was filled with Tony's family and friends, currently serving Marines, veterans of all services, and government officials. It should be noted that members of the **Marine Corps League** made it a goal (and matter of personal pride) to have more 'red jackets' in attendance at the affair than any of the other military aggregations. As one who attended, I can say, without reservation...**Mission Accomplished!**

(see Tony on page 8)

### CONTENTS...

#### Advertisements:

7th Annual MHM Golf Tournament .....	15
89th MCL National Convention .....	15
Department of Maryland Convention ...	14
National Convention Bus Trip .....	15
Thanks (St. Baldrick's) .....	15
Beyond One's Self... ..	12
Birthdays .....	3
Bombastic Bumper Snicker .....	11
Chaplain's Corner .....	10
Color Guard .....	10
Coming Events .....	13
Commandant's Message .....	3
Corps History .....	13
Department of Maryland News .....	7
Devil Dogs .....	4
Featured Foto .....	16
From the Editor .....	2
Have You Heard? .....	5
Helping Terrorists... ..	3
Humor .....	14
Junior Vice Commandant .....	4
List of Officers .....	2
Lest We Forget... ..	9
Medal of Honor Recipient Dies at 79 .....	9
MoH Recipient Aids Tornado Victims .....	8
Membership Stats & Renewals .....	2
Other Maryland Detachment News .....	7
Pistol Team .....	4
Quotation .....	3
Rogue's Gallery (photos) .....	6
Tiny Robots to Aid Grunts .....	12
To Find Us... ..	14
Too Many Wars, Too Few U.S. Soldiers ....	11
Young Marines .....	4

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

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Senior Vice-Commandant – Chris Kalwa

Junior Vice-Commandant – Ed Dahling

Judge Advocate – Charles Luthardt Jr.

Adjutant – Dave Wells

Auxiliary President – Dawn Parker

By-Laws Committee Chairman – Danny Fischio

Chaplain – Ken Webster

Color Guard Commander – Woody Bowman

Historian – Victor Halme

House Chairman – Vacant

Legislative Officer – Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Mac McNeir

Paymaster – Ed Dahling

Public Information Officer – Vacant

Quartermaster – Fred Kaminski

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – Jake Jahelka

Sergeant-at-Arms – Ray Sturm

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

Our **2012 St. Baldrick's Campaign** event took place at **Dougherty's Pub** on March 24th and I would like to thank the detachment and all of you, who supported me in raising **\$1,200** for the fight against children's cancer.

The sale of **Department of Maryland Convention Book** advertisements has ended and we realized **\$1,205** as our share of the profits. We almost matched last year's figures and should be proud of the fact that we kept pushing and managed to sell more ads than any other Maryland detachment.

I try to avoid using this newsletter to talk about my family; however, I felt compelled to include an article (see **Beyond One's Self...** on page 12) about my grandson **Ben Foster** and two of his friends and fellow scouts... three teenagers who exemplify the very best aspects of American youth.

If you have an email account and are not currently receiving **the Cutting Edge** electronically, please consider doing so. Providing me with your email address will reduce our monthly newsletter delivery postage fees.

Due to the Department Convention, the deadline for **May** articles is extended to **MIDNIGHT on Tuesday, May 1, 2012. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your article(s)!**



## Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72	8	5
Annual Memberships	32*	5	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	15	–	–
New Members			
	–	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	119	13	5
Total			
137			

\* 1 new member still needs to be sworn in

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

## Renewals

(dues expire at end of indicated month)

May 2012	June 2012	July 2012
Gabriel Gutierrez Vernon Maher John Vogel	Harry Anderson Jeffrey Clark Timothy Muniz David Wells	George Cunningham Jr. Tom Hancock James Terry Keith Thorburn
Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in this listing.		

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

# Commandant's Message



Joe Wright

Marines,

First off, I would like to thank all of our members for the honor of being nominated and elected as the Detachment 1049 Commandant for a second term. If you don't already know, the detachment nominated and elected the following officers by a single unanimous vote of the detachment members in attendance at our March meeting:

Detachment Commandant ..... Joseph Wright

Detachment Sr Vice Commandant ..... Ed Dahling

Detachment Jr Vice Commandant ..... Ray Sturm

Detachment Judge Advocate ..... Charlie Luthardt

Your newly elected officers for the 2012-2013 term of office will be installed at our detachment meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 23, 2012 at 1900 hours**. After the installation ceremony, there will be time for socializing, food and drink. If anyone is interested in bringing and sharing their favorite covered dish, please do so.

Next, I want to remind everyone that our **Department of Maryland 2012 Convention** will be held in **Ocean City** during the period of **April 26th – April 28th**. I hope to see as many Detachment 1049 members in attendance at the convention as possible; so, please plan on attending, a great time will be had by all.

Finally, we are working on several trips in the upcoming months. We are in the preliminary stages of planning a trip to **Marine Barrack's 8th & I** for the **Sunset Parade** as well as a trip to the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. The dates have not yet been set; but, additional information will be disseminated as soon as more details are available.

*Semper Fi,*

**Joe**

## Quotation

*War is cruelty. There's no use trying to reform it, the crueler it is, the sooner it will be over.*

**General William Tecumseh Sherman**  
American Soldier, Businessman, Educator & Author



## HELPING TERRORISTS AROUND THE WORLD



## USMC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COURTESY OF THE **Devil Dog Review**

EDITOR'S NOTE ---- The graphic above was obtained from the Devil Dog Review – via [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## 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 **May** include:

Jerry Fay	Edward Luthardt	Robert Tavik Sr.
Jake Jahelka	Charles Luthardt Jr.	William T. Wild
Joseph Lowman	Ron Short	



**WE DON'T HAVE  
AN ATTITUDE...  
WE'RE JUST THAT  
GOOD!**



# Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

Fellow Members,

This is my last article as your *Junior Vice Commandant* and it has been a pleasure serving you.

The detachment is fortunate that **Ray Sturm** will be your new *Junior Vice Commandant*. He will do an outstanding job and with your help, he will increase the membership rolls of this detachment. I am looking forward to serving you as your *Senior Vice Commandant*.

Remember, that the newly elected officers will be installed at our **April 23rd** meeting. After the installation ceremony, there will be a social gathering with food and an open bar. For those of you who would like to bring your favorite covered-dish... please do so.

To the extent possible, I hope to see you all at our next detachment meeting at VFW Post 160, which is scheduled for **April 23rd at 1900**.

Semper Fi,

**Ed Dahling**



## Pistol Team

by Jake Jahelka

The following members of our detachment will be representing us at the **MCL Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match**, which will be held over the period of **1-3 June 2012** at **Fort Indiantown Gap, PA**.

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Danny Fischio    | ■ Mike Hadley   |
| ■ Richard Gonzales | ■ Charles Grove |
| ■ Jake Jahelka     | ■ Raymond Sturm |
| ■ Frank Zupancic   |                 |

Our pistol shooters have been practicing for the match every Sunday morning, since **11 March** at the **Associated Gun Clubs (AGC) Bullseye Range** in Marriottsville MD (11518 Marriottsville Road).

Anyone desiring to become part of our detachment team or wishing to compete in future competitions should contact me at the following number...**410-799-7578**.



## Military Order of the Devil Dogs



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

Woof-Woof,

The **Maryland Pack** held another very successful growl last month in Westminster, enabling us to collect another **128 big bones** for the kids in Mobile, Alabama. Here's hoping that the Maryland Pack will once again be the Pack donating the most bones for this very worthy cause.

This was the third Pack Growl in which DDs desiring to advance at the **August Supreme Growl in Mobile, Alabama** could have attended to qualify for advancement. The Pack has 32 DDs, who could advance if they have fulfilled the requirement of attending two Pack growls between Supreme Growls. Unfortunately, only 11 of them have qualified to date. There is still time for others to qualify, if they attend the **Grand Growl in Ocean City on April 27th**.

**Pound 204** will growl on 15 April at their Dog House (VFW Post 160) at 1000; breakfast at 0900; *Bloody-Marys* at 0800!

Woof-Woof,

**Paul Taylor**

PDD & Dog Robber



## Young Marines

Just have a few things to report upon this month.

The Young Marines will be hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner** on **April 15th** at the **Edgewater American Legion Hall** on Mayo Road. Flyers and tickets are available at **VFW Post 160**.

The Young Marines will be taking part in a **Memorial Day** ceremony at **Kalis Funeral Home** in Edgewater on **May 26th at 1:00 PM**.

I will be laid up for about 6-8 weeks as I broke 2 bones in my ankle on Monday (April 26th).

**Beneka Sirko**, mother of Annapolis Young Marines **Joseph** and **Jai**, is holding her own and currently waiting for a transplant. Her sons are coping as well as can be expected.

Thanks to **Woody** [Bowman] for coming in and instructing the Young Marines on color guard procedures.

Respectfully,

**George Martin**

Young Marines Commander



# Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

## March Detachment Meeting Recap...

As has been the case for the past several months, attendance was again less than it should have been for a detachment of this size. Devoting an hour each month is a rather small commitment for anyone wishing to keep up with and to be part of detachment activities.

A recap of the actions taken by members present at the March meeting are summarized below for those, who were not able to attend.

### ▪ 8th & I Sunset Parade...

Commandant **Joe Wright** is soliciting feedback from those members, who would be interested in attending the **Sunset Parade** ceremony held at **Marine Barracks 8th & I**. No date has yet been established; however, a date will be requested, once, sufficient interest has been determined to exist.

### ▪ Young Marines' Spaghetti Dinner...

Young Marines Commander **George Martin** announced that the **Annapolis Young Marines** will be sponsoring a spaghetti dinner at the **Edgewater American Legion Post** (Mayo Road) on **April 15th** from **3:00 PM** until **7:00 PM**. Tickets are available at the **VFW Post 160** bar, at a cost of **\$10** per person.

### ▪ Marines Helping Marines (MHM) Golf...

MHM Tournament Chairman and Past Commandant **Pete Pervi** solicited volunteers to assist with the conduct of the **7th Annual MHM Golf Tournament** being held on **May 18th** at the **Bay Hills Golf Club** in Arnold, MD. A need was also expressed for volunteers to (1) *solicit local merchants, business enterprises, and private citizens for their sponsorship* of this important event and (2) *distribute printed materials (flyers & tri-folds)* to potential golfers as well as sponsors.

### ▪ Election Results...

Completion of the nomination process and the subsequent election of detachment officers for the **2012-2013 term of office** was presided over by Past Detachment Commandant **Pete Pervi**. Motion was made, seconded and passed, that directed Detachment Adjutant **Ben Wells** to cast one unanimous vote, on behalf of the detachment, for the following nominees.

Commandant .....	Joseph Wright
Senior Vice Commandant .....	Ed Dahling
Junior Vice Commandant .....	Ray Sturm
Judge Advocate .....	Charles Luthardt Jr.

Congratulations to the above Marines, who will be sworn in at our April meeting.

(continued in adjacent column)

## 2012 Dept. of Maryland Convention...

The **Department of Maryland Convention** will be held on **April 26, 27, and 28** at the **Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center** in **Ocean City** (1-800-4-ROYALE).

The sale of convention book ads ended on a positive note due to the response of members of this detachment, the Auxiliary, and members of our extended family to **Mac McNeir's** call for one last, all-out effort before reaching the *end-of-March* sales deadline. The final tally of **32** ads yielded a net profit of **\$1,205** for our detachment's general fund. A special thank you is extended to the members of our **Auxiliary**, **Manny Airey**, **Norm** and **Jane Huffman**, and especially **Jack Severn**, who for years has been the moving force behind the successful production, publication, and distribution of our annual **Department of Maryland Convention Book**.

## 2012 National Convention...

Members planning to attend the **2012 National Convention** in **Mobile, Alabama**, should make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Usually, hotel room availability becomes increasingly scarce as the date of the convention approaches. Hotel information is provided below.

- The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa  
26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 (1-866-316-5957)
- Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel  
64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 (1-800-922-3298)

## St. Baldrick's...

On the afternoon of **24 March**, a number of detachment members gathered at **Dougherty's Pub** in Baltimore to support the **2012 St. Baldrick's** campaign to eradicate the various forms of childhood cancer.

Detachment 'shavees' consisted of **Mac McNeir**, **Ed Ross**, and **Debra Mondragon** (photos on page 6). Debra was a last minute addition to the roster of those having their heads shorn as a result of a last minute incentive. An incentive that took the form of an impromptu bidding frenzy orchestrated by Ed Ross, which coaxed (begged) everyone at the pub to contribute to a substantial monetary inducement (bribe). An inducement in the neighborhood of **\$500** was sufficient to garner Debra's participation – or possibly the threat of public humiliation had she said 'No.'

A support contingent from **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** and **VFW Post 160**, consisted of **Don Stockton**, **Dawn Parker**, **Nila Caulder-Rogers**, **Earl Parker**, **James Brady**, and **Paul Taylor**.

The event was, as always, masterfully managed by Ed Ross and raised in excess of **\$13,000** – noteworthy for a contingent of fourteen shaves. This total represents a new high for the annual event at Dougherty's.

**Thanks to all who supported this year's drive!**





# Rogue's Gallery



Boot Camp buddies Jack Severn & Ken Webster, who took years to realize that they had been in the same platoon. [Source – Jack Severn]



Pete Pervi, Sgt Major Joe VanFonda, MGySgt T. Jones, Ed Ross, Veteran of the Year Tony Begenwald & Mac McNeir at the 2012 Joint Veterans Commission Testimonial. [ Photo – Paul 'Doc' Gunther ]



Sergeant Major Joe VanFonda & the Joint Veterans Commission honoree, Tony Begenwald, Maryland Veteran of Year 2012. [ Photo – Paul 'Doc' Gunther ]



2012 Shavee Mac McNeir [Photo - Nila Caulder-Rogers]



2012 Shavee Debra Mondragon [Photo - Mac McNeir]



2012 Shavee Ed Ross [Photo - Mac McNeir]



2012 Dougherty's Pub Shavees [Photo - Nila Caulder-Rogers]



## Department of Maryland News

A **Department of Maryland Staff Meeting**, hosted by **Carroll County Detachment 896** in Westminster, was held on **March 10th**. The highlights of that meeting are summarized as follows.

- Colors posted by Carroll County Young Marines.
  - A *pass-the-hat collection* was held for Truckin' for Troops, which was augmented by donations from the Department of Maryland, the Carroll Co. Detachment, Bud Raines, and Marines Helping Marines. A total of \$1,500 was presented to Scott & Lynne Mallary, sponsors of this wounded warrior focused organization.
  - Ron Short, National Director of the Marines Helping Marines Program pointed out that although the United States is no longer in Iraq, the casualty rate is still high and the nature of the wounds is increasing in severity; so...the need for contributions is greater than ever!
- Ron also pointed out that all monies collected – with the exception of the costs associated with printing brochures and donor correspondence – go directly to our wounded.
- March 21st is the date of the first Marines Helping Marines cookout of the 2012 season. Individuals wishing to assist with this (or future) events, need to contact **Tony Begenwald** in order to obtain clearance to the Military Medical Center in Bethesda.
  - Jack Severn pointed out that the sale of ads for the *2012 Department of Maryland Convention Book* were not going well. As of this meeting, a total of just nine ads had been received from Maryland detachments and seven of those were from **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**.

*Editor's Note – Our detachment subsequently 'pulled-out all stops' and sold 32 ads for this year's convention book.*

- James Brady announced that the rental of a bus for the trip to the **National Convention and Supreme Growl** in Mobile, Alabama will likely be cancelled due to a lack of interest.
- Support for the **Joint Veteran's Commission Banquet**, honoring **Tony Begenwald** as its 2012 Maryland Veteran of the Year, was again requested...desired support implies that as many Marine Corps League members as possible make the effort to attend.
- Next **MCL Leadership Class** will be conducted on **14 April** at **VFW Post 160** – home of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**. Contact **Craig Reeling** (443-477-0670) to register.
- **Department Officer Nominations** for the 2012-2013 term of office were made with the following candidates being identified: **Commandant...Ed Ross**; **Senior Vice...Stuart Blair**; **Junior Vice...Mike Betts**; and, **Judge Advocate...Craig Reeling**.

The next **Department of Maryland Staff Meeting** will be part of the **2012 Department Convention**, scheduled for **April 26th – 28th**, in **Ocean City, MD**. All detachment members are encouraged to attend this staff meeting.



## Other Maryland Detachment News

*L/CPL Robert W. Deane Detachment...*

will be sponsoring their **2nd Annual Golf Tournament** at **The Links at Challedon** golf course on **Monday, October 8, 2012** with check-in beginning at **7:30 AM** and a shot-gun start at **8:30 AM**. Proceeds will be distributed to both the **Marines Helping Marines Program** and the **Deane Detachment Scholarship Fund**.

An entry fee of **\$95** entitles the golfer to golf, cart, prizes, and lunch. Hole sponsorships are available at a cost of **\$100** each. Checks should be made payable to the **L/CPL Robert W. Deane Detachment, MCL** and mailed along with a completed entry form (identifying foursome members and the team captain's contact information) – to the tournament chairman.

**Al Jahnigen**  
120 Glenmore Avenue  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Entries must be received by no later than **September 15, 2012**. For registration and other information, call...

**Al Jahnigen** ..... 1-814-324-4370, or  
**Breeze Reed** ..... 1-301-268-1097

*Mountainside Marines...*

will be sponsoring a fund-raising motorcycle run titled the **Leatherneck Ride** at **11:00 AM** on **Saturday, June 16, 2012**. A rain-date of **June 23, 2012** has been established. The ride, which will begin at and depart from the **Cumberland Outdoor Club** parking lot, is being held in memory of...

**Pfc Brandon Davis, USA**      **LCPL Stephan Szwydek, USMC**  
**Robert Portmess, USMC**

A fee of **\$10** per cycle (rider) and **\$5** per 2nd passenger is being charged. Lunch will be provided as well as tee-shirts to the first 100 pre-registered participants.

For more information, call either...

**Lenny Emerick** ..... 1-814-324-4370, or  
**Jeff Robinette** ..... 1-301-268-1097

*CPL Jason David Mileo Detachment...*

will be sponsoring a fund-raising car-wash on **Saturday, May 14, 2012** at the **Jeff Davis American Legion Post #18**, in Centreville, MD.

*Harford County Detachment 1198...*

will be holding their annual **Bull Roast and Shrimp Feast** at the **Jarrettsville VFW** at 1714 Morse Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050 on **Saturday, May 12th** from **6:00 to 11:00 PM**. Tickets are **\$40** each with all proceeds being used to fund the detachment's worthy endeavors.





# MoH Recipient Aids Tornado Victims

*EDITOR'S NOTE – The following AP (Associated Press) article by Bruce Schreiner appeared in the on-line version of the Marine Corps Times on March 19, 2012.*

WEST LIBERTY, KY – When **Pastor Bud Angus** found out that a recipient of the country's highest military honor was in his tiny community of Woods Bend, helping clean up from a deadly March 2 tornado, there was only one thing he could say.

*"Anyone who would help is still a hero,"* Angus said Monday as he raked the yard at Woods Bend Community Church. *"They deserve another medal."*

**Dakota Meyer**, 23, a Kentucky Marine awarded the Medal of Honor in September, had arrived Sunday night in the tornado-ravaged town with four friends and six pieces of heavy equipment, ready to work. He had announced his plans on his new blog, *"Actions Not Words,"* on Friday. On Monday, he sent several tweets from the scene.

*"It's the worst thing I've ever seen in my life,"* Meyer told the Associated Press on Monday, taking a brief break from clearing trees and other debris from a tiny country road.

*"In war, you expect stuff like this. This is America, this is Kentucky. You don't expect this to happen here."*

Meyer is credited with saving 13 American and 23 Afghan soldiers' lives in a grueling 2009 firefight in Afghanistan. The military's public statement on the battle said Meyer *"personally killed at least eight Taliban insurgents, while providing cover for his team to fight their way out."*

The Marine says on his blog that *"being honored and called a hero for the worst day of my life is something I still struggle to understand."* He writes that he travels the country, speaking to groups.

*"I'm not here because I have nothing else to do,"* Meyer said. *"That's for sure. We're here because it's the right thing to do."*

Meyer said when he and his friends arrived in town, they told officials they wanted to go to *"places where people didn't have insurance and they needed help."*

The group joined dozens of volunteers who have descended on the town since the tornadoes swept the state.

Meyer estimated he and his friends will spend at least **\$4,000** of their own money on equipment and fuel. They are staying in a camper at the local fairgrounds.

*"Kentucky's shown me so much support since I've been back,"* he said. *"So I've got to give back to them, too."*



## Tony... *(continued from page 1)*

Among the more notable guests in attendance were, **Sergeant Major Joseph VanFonda** and **Master Gunnery Sergeant Terrell Jones** of the *Wounded Warrior Regiment* at Quantico; **Commandant Ed Ross**, **Senior Vice Commandant Stuart Blair**, **Junior Vice Commandant Mike Betts**, **Judge Advocate Craig Reeling**, **Adjutant Paul Taylor**, **Junior Past Commandant Bud Raines**, **Legislative Officer Gerard Devlin**, **Public Affairs Officer Vic Ryan**, as well as **Jack Colleran**, **Paul Gunther**, **Jack Severn**, and **Ray Chatary** from the *Marine Corps League's Department of Maryland*; **Robert Flick**, *MCL National Color Guard*; **Director Dennis Smith** of the *VA Maryland Health Care System*; **State Senator J. J. Peters**; **State Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith**; and **G. Frederick Robinson**, *Mayor of Bowie, Maryland*.

Represented organizations included the **American Legion**; **Amvets**; **Catholic War Veterans**; the **City of Bowie, Maryland**; **Disabled American Veterans**; **Jewish War Veterans**; **Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland**; many of the **Marine Corps League** detachments throughout Maryland; the **Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**; both houses of the **Maryland State Government**; **Military Order of the Purple Heart**; **VA Maryland Health Care System**; **Veterans of Foreign Wars**; and the **Academy Ford** dealership.

The ceremony was emceed by **Gerard 'Jerry' Devlin** of the **Free-State Detachment**, who regaled everyone with his Irish personality, buoyed by copious amounts of *Guinness*, and his penchant for story-telling.

Many presentations – plaques, mementos, communiqués, etc. – were presented to Tony, some of the most notable being from **Ray Mabus**, *Secretary of the Navy*; **Eric Shinseki**, *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*; **General James F. Amos**, *Commandant of the Marine Corps*; **Sergeant Major Michael P. Barrett**, *Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps*; **Vic Voltaggio**, *National Commandant of the Marine Corps League*; **Ben Cardin & Barbara Mikulski**, *Maryland's U.S. Senators*; **Steny Hoyer**, *Congressman (MD)*; **Donald Samuels**, *DAV National Commander (and a fellow Marine)*; and **Greg Jones**, *Deputy Secretary of Maryland's Department of Veteran Affairs*.

In making his acceptance remarks, our honoree, as always was brief in his remarks. In keeping with the spirit of the occasion and his never-ending focus upon the support of the **Marines Helping Marines Program**, Tony closed with a poignant and appropriate request that those in attendance *"Send Money."*

*Editor's Note – I believe that we can continue to honor Tony by continuing to support Marines helping Marines through continued monetary donations, on-site support of the monthly patient picnic's at the National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, and sponsorship of fund-raising events such as Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049's Annual Golf Tournament.*

*May God – or your preferred deity or force – bless Tony and those nameless individuals that support him and those organizations pledged to help our wounded regain their rightful place in our society.*







## Lest We Forget...

**James L. 'Seamus' Garrahy**, 70, of Gettysburg, PA died at home on January 9, 2012. Born on June 29, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois, Seamus was the son of the late **John R. and Marie Lydon Garrahy**. He is survived by his wife **Linda Bell**; two step-children; **Jessica Sparaco** and her husband **Gerard** (Arizona); **Joshua Rutan** (Ohio); two step grandchildren; **Haley Rutan** and **Avery Rutan**; a sister, **Nancy Crawford** (Chicago, IL); a brother, **John R. 'Jack' Garrahy, Jr.** (Chicago, IL); and a number of nieces and nephews.



A Marine Corps veteran, Corporal Garrahy designated his beloved Gettysburg farm as '**Marine Barracks, Gettysburg.**' Following his retirement from active duty in 1968, Corporal Garrahy turned to business, creating and nationally marketing, his well-liked fudge and other food products. More recently, he created and managed the popular and influential '**All Hands**' newsletter...distributed weekly to more than 3,500 active-duty Marines, Marines of former eras, friends, and supporters worldwide.

Corporal Garrahy and his wife hosted annual *Battlefield Professional Military Education Camps* for Marines at his farm. Each year, 2,000 to 4,000 Marines and other active duty service professionals came for military training at the historic battlefields of Gettysburg and a camp out affectionately referred to as '**Steaks and Beer.**' Participants of these camps were encouraged to participate in the evening campfire to tell bad jokes, swap lies, and trade Marine Corps lore. Many salty Marines have stated that this event was probably the best night they ever spent as a Marine.

Seamus lived a full life filled with adventures, friendships, and fun. For a year, he served as a crew member aboard the **HMS Bounty**, a tall ship sailing the Atlantic. He also founded a singing group known as the '**Sault Antlers Men's Choir**' that specialized in Irish drinking songs. The group recorded an album and were later a fixture around Gettysburg every St. Patrick's Day. He will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to have ever been in his presence.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the **Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund**, 825 College Blvd, Suite 102, Oceanside, CA 92057 or the **Adams County SPCA**, 11 Goldenville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

*NOTE – The information above is based upon articles published on-line by the You Served military blog and the World Team Sports Internet site. The photo was published on-line by the Gettysburg Times.*



## Medal of Honor Recipient Dies at 79



Retired **Master Chief Hospital Corpsman William Richard Charette**, 79, a Medal of Honor recipient, died in Lake Wales, FL. Charette was born in Ludington, MI, on 29 March 1932 and graduated from high school there in 1951. On 11 January 1951, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy in Muskegon, MI.

Charette underwent recruit training at the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, IL, and then attended the Naval Hospital Corps School, Bainbridge, MD. Duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Charleston, SC followed. In November of 1952, after volunteering to serve in Korea, HM3 Charette reported for field training and further assignment at Field Medical Service School, Camp Pendleton, CA; where, he was assigned to Company F, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He embarked for Korea in February of 1953.

On March 27, 1953, during the horrific Chinese attack on Marine outpost Vegas, HM3 Charette faced a growing number of casualties and extended exposure to enemy fire. When a grenade landed nearby, HM3 Charette threw himself over his patient, absorbing the blast with his own body. In another instance, he removed his battle vest and placed it on a patient. In addition, he tore parts of his uniform to dress other battle wounds. HM3 Charette also stood up in a trench, exposing himself to enemy rounds, to aid a wounded comrade. He sustained many painful wounds; however, through courage and perseverance, he saved numerous lives.

HM3 Charette was still serving in Korea when the war ended and he learned that he would receive the Medal of Honor. It should be noted that *five enlisted Sailors received the nation's highest award for military valor during the Korean War and all five were hospital corpsmen serving with the Marines.* HM3 Charette received the Medal of Honor in Washington, DC, from **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** on January 12, 1954 and was the only one of the five heroic corpsman still living,

He continued his service with the Navy, training new hospital corpsmen at the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes. In 1958, he had the honor of selecting the World War II remains that would be placed in the Tomb of the Unknowns at the Arlington National Cemetery. Subsequently, he became a member of the submarine service, becoming one of the first hospital corpsmen to serve on nuclear submarines. He retired as a Master Chief Hospital Corpsman in 1977, having amassed 26 years of service.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, HMCM Charette's other decorations include the Purple Heart, National Defense Service, the Korean Service, and the United Nations Service medals.

*NOTE – The article above is an edited compilation of articles published by the U.S. Marine Corps History Division website and the online version of a Marine Corps Times story by staff writer Gina Harkins. The photo was widely published on Internet websites.*





## Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Ken Webster

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

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

**Tony Begenwald**, league member, *East Coast Coordinator of the Marines Helping Marines Program*, and recently designated *2012 Maryland Veteran of the Year*, has been an in-patient at the **Anne Arundel Medical Center** as a result of a *near death experience* caused by a *massive blood clot* in his lungs. Tony hopes to be home before you get to read this article and extends his appreciation to all who have expressed their concerns and sent their best wishes.

**Sherry Brewer**, sister of our Chaplain **Ken Webster** and wife of 'Sonny' **Brewer** (a Marine Sergeant who served in Vietnam), is dealing with her previously diagnosed Stage 4 cancer.

**Fred Downey**, *detachment member* and *Korean War veteran*, has been released from the **Baltimore-Washington Medical Center** and is now home recuperating. Please note that due to an arduous treatment schedule, etc., Fred is **not ready to have visitors**. However, Fred assures me that he will let us know when he is ready to entertain visitors.

**Ann Himmel**, mother-in-law of our Junior Vice Commandant **Ed Dahling**, passed away on Wednesday, March 28th. No other details are available at this time.

**Shirley Walker-Lloyd**, cousin of detachment member **Bob Lloyd**, died unexpectedly as the result of an automobile accident in Severn, Maryland.

**Beneka Sirko**, mother of Annapolis Young Marines **Joseph** and **Jai**, who was previously diagnosed with *stage 4* cancer, is coping and awaiting an organ transplant.

**George Webster**, brother of our Chaplain **Ken Webster**, a Vietnam veteran and military retiree with 23 years of combined service in the Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, has been diagnosed with MGUS (*monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance*) – a blood disorder requiring monitoring as it can lead to more serious disorders.

**Harry E. Yaukey Sr.**, member of the **Southern Maryland Leathernecks** and past **Department of Maryland Commandant** (1983-84), has been ailing. He is now out of the hospital and is at the **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**.

Please keep those mentioned above and the members of our extended family, who may be suffering silently, in anonymity, in your thoughts and prayers.

One last request, I need someone to assume the role of *Detachment Chaplain* as circumstances make it necessary for me to give my undivided attention to members of my family, who are ailing. I will of course, assist the new Chaplain in becoming familiar with the requirements of this office.



## Color Guard

by Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

Color Guard members **Woody Bowman**, **Charlie Young**, and **Pete Pervi** participated in a wreath-laying ceremony during the annual **Confederate Navy-Marine Corps Day** commemoration at **St. Anne's Cemetery** in Annapolis, Maryland on March 3rd.



### COMING EVENTS

- Ferndale Day Parade & Festival will be held on **Sunday, May 6, 2012** at 10:00 AM. Participants should assemble in the *North County High School* parking lot by no later than 9:00 AM.
- 25th Annual Glen Burnie Memorial Day Parade will be held on **Sunday, May 20, 2012** at 2:00 PM. Participants should assemble at the *Corkran Middle School*.

As previously noted...**we need a few volunteers** to meet our anticipated commitments in the coming months. Contact me for more information if you would like to join our ranks.





# Too Many Wars, Too Few U.S. Soldiers

by Robert H. Scales

*Editor's Note – This article appeared in the March 13, 2012 edition of the Washington Post.*

I guess I knew it would eventually come down to this: Blame the Army's institutions in some way for the horrific and senseless slaughter of 16 innocent Afghan civilians in Kandahar, allegedly by a U.S. infantry non-commissioned officer (NCO). In their search for a villain, the media seems to be focusing now on Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, where the accused soldier was stationed before his fourth deployment to a combat zone.

Before we get too involved in attacking institutions, perhaps it might be right and proper to suggest that the underlying issue here is not about failure of our Army. Perhaps the issue might be that no institutional effort can make up for trying over the past 10 years to fight too many wars with too few soldiers?

The accused NCO is an infantryman. Two weeks ago I talked with infantry soldiers at Fort Benning, GA, and I couldn't help contrasting them with those of my generation of Vietnam veterans. What caught my attention were the soldiers' amazing stories of patient, selfless, introverted commitment. First, I took to heart the enormous disparity in stressful, extreme experiences between the infantry and other branches and services that have come back from Iraq and Afghanistan. The senior NCOs I spoke to all had at least three, and in some cases five, tours, virtually all in close combat units. Contrast this with returning Vietnam NCOs and junior officers, most of whom in that era had only one tour in Vietnam.

Of course infantry combat in Vietnam was perhaps more intense, but close fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan was more pervasive and lasting, thus more likely to cause personal trauma in my mind. The infantrymen I spoke to at Fort Benning were different from those in my generation. They were more emotionally exhausted and drained, less spontaneous and humorless. My generation of professionals spent a great deal of time on Friday nights at the officer's club, talking over a beer about the Catch-22 nature of Vietnam and many of the stupid

and hilarious experiences we endured. None of this at Benning today. No clubs, no public displays of hilarity and certainly no beer. These guys seemed to view their time in combat as endless and repetitive. My sense is that their collective, intimate exposure to the horrors of close combat was far more debilitating than what we experienced.

This of course in no way justifies what happened in Kandahar. But I think if someone wants to place blame, it should be on a succession of national leaders who fail to recognize that combat units, particularly infantry, just wear out. Lord Moran concluded in his classic about combat stress in World War I, "*Anatomy of Courage*," that the reservoir of courage begins to empty after the first shot is fired. The horrors of intimate killing, along with other factors such as fatigue, thirst, hunger, isolation, fear of the unknown, and the sight of dead and maimed comrades, all start a process of moral atrophy that cannot be reversed. Lord Moran rightfully concludes that nothing short of permanent withdrawal from the line will bring soldiers back to normalcy.

The media is trying to make some association between the terrible crime of this sergeant and the Army's inability to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Perhaps the Army could have done more. But I think Lord Moran had it more right; the real institutional culprit is the decade-long exploitation and cynical overuse of one of our most precious and irreplaceable national assets: our close combat soldiers and Marines.

If someone just after 9/11 would have told me that a very small Army and Marine Corps would fight a 10-year-long set of close combat engagements in two wars and still remain intact, I would have called them crazy. Well, we've done just that, haven't we? But at what cost to the few who have borne an enormously disproportionate share of emotional stress?



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overwhelmed superior force!*



# Tiny Robots to Aid Grunts

*EDITOR'S NOTE – The following article by staff writer James K. Sanborn appeared in the on-line version of the Marine Corps Times on March 17, 2012.*

'Throw-able' robots, small enough to fit in a Marine's cargo pocket, are on their way to infantry units in Afghanistan.



The Recon Scout XT can perform reconnaissance by remote control, and is light enough for individual Marines to tote around with them.  
[Photo by ReconRobotics]

ReconRobotics recently received a **\$1.7 million** contract to deliver 126 of their **Recon Scout XT robots**, said **Jack Klobucar**, a company spokesman, on March 14. They will be delivered by April 30 and sent downrange soon after.

Weighing in at just 1.2 pounds, the robots can provide reconnaissance down to the fire-team level. The entire package, with remote and screen, weighs about 3 pounds.

It can be used to investigate IEDs and peer into compounds, onto roofs, or through the dark. They are small enough to reconnoiter crawl spaces and HVAC vents.

In years past, the military's inventory has included 30- to 60-pound robots that while small, were still too heavy for regular carry by infantry. The **Robotics Systems Joint Program Office**, which also supplies the Army, answered with an older version of Recon Scout in 2009, but has worked with industry to refine the system for wider fielding to infantry and special operations forces units.

Also under consideration are other small robots weighing between 5 and 12 pounds, according to **Barbara Hamby**, a spokeswoman with **Marine Corps Systems Command**. While heavier, they could offer more advanced capabilities and maneuverability.

The Recon Scout XT's small size, however, means it can be thrown up to 120 feet. It can also survive a 30-foot fall onto concrete and resist up to one foot of water for up to five minutes.



## Beyond One's Self...

by Mac McNeir

Typically, male ego is such that being emulated by the young people in our lives is a source of great satisfaction and pride. When the emulation exhibited by that youth is selfless and demonstrative of a concern for others, it can be a source of overwhelming pride. Such is the case with regard to the relationship between my grandson Ben and I.

As you all know, I have been involved with the **Saint Baldrick's Campaign** that has a goal of eradicating childhood cancers. Volunteers or 'shavees' raise funds by obtaining donations based on their pledge to have their heads shaved as a sign of *solidarity with* and *support for* the children who lose their hair as a result of their cancer treatments. What you don't know, and what I recently learned, is that my 13 year-old grandson **Ben Foster** (a Star Scout), undertook a similar role upon learning that his three year-old cousin, **Jackson Jones**, had been diagnosed with Leukemia in February. Since Ben has always treasured his hair, his decision to part with it came as an absolute surprise to his parents and all of us who know him.



Scout leader **Dave Foster** being shorn by his son **Ben**, as part of a fund-raising effort in the fight against Leukemia.

Subsequently, Ben approached the members of his **Perry Hall Boy Scout troop – Troop 247** – and offered to let the scout, who raised the most money for the fight against Leukemia, to 'shave' his head. Ben was joined in the undertaking by his friends and fellow scouts **Aidan Leyen** (Star Scout), and **Joseph Napoli** (Eagle Scout). On Tuesday, March 6, Ben and his friends were shorn of their tresses during a meeting of Troop 247, by the three scouts, who had raised the most money. The net result of their efforts was an **\$800** donation to be used to defray some of the costs of his cousin's fight against leukemia (see [www.jacksonsfight.org](http://www.jacksonsfight.org)).

My son-in-law **Dave Foster** also collected donations and provided additional impetus for the scouts, by agreeing to have his head shaved if they reached their fund raising goal.

Our country is in good hands, if these remarkable young men are emblematic of today's youth!





## Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **August 12, 2012**. 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.*

### **MCL Leadership Training**

Saturday, April 14, 2012 – Joe Wright

### **MODD, Pound 204 Growl**

Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 1000 to 1200 – Mike Hadley

### **Monthly Meeting, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary**

(New Officer Installations)

Monday, April 16, 2012 @ 1900 – Dawn Parker

### **Monthly Meeting, Detachment 1049**

(New Officer Installations)

Monday, April 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright

### **2012 Department of Maryland Convention**

Thursday, April 26 – Saturday, April 28, 2012 – Ed Ross  
Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center  
Ocean-front at 91st Street, Ocean City, Maryland  
(1-800-4-ROYALE)

### **MODD, Maryland Pack Grand Growl**

Friday, April 27, 2012 – Ed Ross

Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center

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

Friday, May 4, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Joe Wright

### **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament**

Friday, May 18, 2012 @ 0900 – Joe Wright

Bay Hills Golf Club, Arnold, MD

### **Memorial Day (Observed)**

Monday, May 28, 2012

### **Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary**

Monday, May 28, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

### **Flag Day**

Thursday, June 14, 2012

### **Mid-East Division Conference**

Friday, June 15 – Sunday, June 17, 2012

Hosted by the Depart. of North Carolina, Tar Heel Detachment #733  
The Hilton Raleigh-Durham Airport Hotel, Raleigh, North Carolina

### **Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary**

Monday, June 25, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

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

Friday, June 29, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker

### **89th Marine Corps League National Convention**

(Hosted by P.L. Wilson Detachment 447)

Sunday, August 12 – Saturday, August 18, 2012

(See the ad on page 15 for details)



## Corps History

by Historian Vic Halme

### **1 April 1945 (Easter Sunday)**

1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Divisions land on Okinawa.

### **2-3 April 2003**

5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regimental Combat Team captures bridges over Tigris River to open the path to Baghdad.

### **3 April 1945**

Marines of the III Amphibious Corps effectively cut Okinawa in half in 3 days rather than the originally projected 11.

### **8 April 1956**

Six recruits drown in Ribbon Creek at MCRD Parris Island.

### **9 April 1942**

105 Marines among American captives on Bataan Death March.

### **13 April 2003**

Marines locate seven American soldiers held prisoner by the Iraqis near Samarra.

### **14 April 1865**

Marines guard the body of **John Wilkes Booth** after **Abraham Lincoln's** assassination.

### **15 April 1962 (Palm Sunday)**

Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War begins, when HMM-362 arrives at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon – as part of **Operaton Shufly** – to air-lift Vietnamese troops into battle.

### **18 April 1983**

A Marine Security Guard is killed and seven wounded when a large car bomb explodes just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

### **19 April 1995**

**Captain Randolph A. Guzman** and **Sergeant Benjamin L. Davis** are killed when the Alfred Murrah Federal Office Building is bombed in Oklahoma City, OK.

### **20 April 1861**

Marines burn Norfolk Navy yard to prevent Confederate seizure.

### **24 April 1980**

Three Marines perish in desert accident during effort to rescue American hostages in Teheran.

### **26 April 1965**

**Staff Sergeant Josephine (Davis) Gebers** becomes first woman Marine to be awarded the Combat Action Ribbon after coming under enemy fire in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

### **27 April 1805**

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant **Presley N. O'Bannon** with several other Marines – part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul **William Eaton** – raise the American flag over a conquered fortress of the Old World for the first time at **Derne, Tripoli**.

### **30 April 1975**

4<sup>th</sup> Marines under **Colonel Al Gray** complete evacuation of U.S. Embassy in Saigon, RVN and nearby **Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base**.





**To Find Us, You  
Must Be Good**



**To Catch Us, You  
Must Be Fast**

**To Beat Us...  
You Must Be  
Kidding!**



## Humor

The year is 2016 and the United States has just elected the first woman president. A few days after the election the president-elect, whose name is Debra, calls her father and says... *"So, Dad, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?"*

*"I don't think so. It's a 10 hour drive."*

*"Don't worry about it Dad, I'll send Air Force One and have a limousine pick you up at your door."*

*"I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What would your mother wear?"*

*"Oh Dad,"* replies the president-elect, *"I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom-made by the best designer in Washington."*

*"Honey,"* Dad complains, *"you know I can't eat those rich foods you eat."*

The president-to-be responds, *"Don't worry Dad. The entire affair will be handled by the best caterer in Washington; I'll ensure your meals are salt free. You and Mom just have to be there."*

So Dad reluctantly agrees, and on January 20, 2017, his daughter Debra is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's dad and mom.

Dad, noticing the senator sitting next to him, leans over and whispers, *"You see that woman over there with her hand on the Bible, whose about to become the President of the United States?"*

The Senator whispers back, *"You bet I do!"*

Dad responds proudly, *"Her brother is a Marine!"*



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## 89th Marine Corps League National Convention

(Hosted by P.L. Wilson Detachment 447)

**Sunday August 12 – Saturday August 18, 2012**

### The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa

26 North Royal Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602  
(866) 316-5957

### Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602  
(800) 922-3298

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Marine Corps League to receive our group rate of \$107 (plus 14% occupancy tax) per night

More Info – <http://www.mobilemarines.org/2012Natl.html>



# Thanks!

From a detachment perspective, the **2012 St. Baldrick's Campaign** is over; however, I would like to state that...

- If you would still like to contribute... St. Baldrick's accepts donations throughout the year.
- I would like to express my sincere thanks for the support that members of this detachment provided to this campaign by generously supporting the efforts of Department Commandant **Ed Ross** and I!

*On behalf of some very special kids, thank you for your support and your generosity!*

**Wayne (Mac) McNeir**

Junior Past Commandant  
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

**MCL Members**  
Join us for a bus ride to the National Convention in Mobile Alabama

Contact Jim Brady @ 202-3124-1782 or [jbrady@ushmm.org](mailto:jbrady@ushmm.org) for details

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**Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049**  
**PO Box 804**  
**Severn, Maryland 21144-0804**

(Address Correction Requested)



# Featured Foto



**Regimental Combat Team 5** – U.S. Marine Lance Corporal **Brandon Mann**, a dog handler with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and native of Arlington, Texas, sights in with his infantry automatic rifle while providing security with **Ty**, an improvised explosive device detection dog, during a patrol here on February 16th. Marines and sailors with 1st LAR and India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted clearing and disrupting operations in and around the villages of Sre Kala and Paygel during Operation Highland Thunder. Marines with 1st LAR led the operation on foot, sweeping for enemy weapons and drug caches through 324 square kilometers of rough, previously unoccupied desert and marshland terrain. Mobile units with 1st LAR set up blocking positions and vehicle check points while India Company, 3/3 conducted helicopter inserts to disrupt insurgent freedom of movement.

[ USMC photo by Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez – 2/17/2012 ]