

the CUTTING EDGE

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

Joe Wright, Commandant (cmdt@mclaacdet1049.org) / Mac McNeir, Editor (editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

Homecoming Encourages Wounded Marine



Marine Ben Tomlinson is greeted by a Marine Corps League honor guard as he is pushed in his wheelchair by his father, Chuck Tomlinson, following a welcome-home celebration in his hometown of Jacksonville, AL., on January 18th. Tomlinson, who was wounded twice in Afghanistan, said the homecoming has helped him to focus him on recovery. [Photo by Dave Martin, AP]

NOTE – The following article by Jay Reeves of the Associated Press appeared in the February 8th on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times.

JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA – Shot through the upper back on a rooftop in Afghanistan and gasping for breath after a bullet ripped through his chest, **Marine Sgt. Ben Tomlinson** had a fear worse than death.

Heat and shock from the round damaged his spinal cord, paralyzing him from the chest down. This injury was so much worse than one nine months before, when he'd been hit by a mortar blast during his first tour in Afghanistan. Yet through all the pain, Tomlinson was haunted by the idea people back home wouldn't remember him, that they wouldn't even know he was hurt.

"That's the worst fear for everyone that gets deployed," said Tomlinson, who now uses a wheelchair. *"It's that no one is thinking about them."*

(see *Marine Homecoming* on page 14)

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

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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

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House Chairman – Vacant

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Sergeant-at-Arms – Ray Sturm

Toys for Tots Coordinator – Vacant

VAWS Officer – Vacant

Web Sergeant – Michael R. Hadley

Young Marines Commander – George Martin

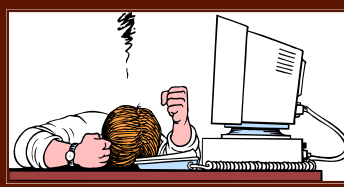


Award Winner

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

Detachment Elections and Marine of the Year selection will soon be taking place. *Don't remain silent if you know of worthy nominees!*

We have already turned in a few advertisements for the **Department of Maryland Convention Book**; however, we are well behind our past levels of participation. We need everyone's help in selling ads!

Remember that other than the **Bull & Oyster Roast**, this is our detachment's largest annual fund-raiser; so, we need the help of all our members!

The end of the **2012 St. Baldrick's Campaign** is fast approaching and donations are significantly below those received last year; so, I am again respectfully asking for your support. Anyone wishing to join me in the fight against children's cancer can either use the forms located in the newsletter rack at **VFW Post 160** or give your donation directly to me.

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 costs.

The deadline for **April** articles is **MIDNIGHT on Tuesday, April 3, 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	73	8	5
Annual Memberships	31	5	–

Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster)

Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	14	1	–

Sub-Totals

118 14 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)

April 2012	May 2012	June 2012
Joseph Stephens	Gabriel Gutierrez Vernon Maher John Vogel	Harry Anderson Jeffrey Clark (2011) Timothy Muniz David Wells

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,

As we approach the end of another detachment year, we must start looking towards our officer elections for the upcoming year. As you know... at the last meeting, we held the initial nomination session for the detachment's elected officers, who will serve during 2012-2013.

Current Nominees for Detachment Offices:

Detachment Commandant Joseph Wright
 Detachment Sr Vice Commandant Ed Dahling
 Detachment Jr Vice Commandant Ray Sturm
 Detachment Judge Advocate Charlie Luthardt

We will re-open the nomination process at our March meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND CONVENTION

We still need volunteers to serve as detachment delegates to the Department of Maryland Convention. Currently, we have eight of the thirteen delegates authorized for our detachment. Delegates from all of the Maryland detachments will be electing the Department of Maryland Officers for the coming year as well as deciding the fate of other important items. As a delegate, you will need to attend the **Saturday, April 28th** session. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please give your name to our current Adjutant during the March meeting.

I also want to remind everyone to push the sale of convention ads for this year's convention book. We earn **50%** of all sales over **\$300.00** and last year the detachment netted **\$942.00** for our convention book ad sales.

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting will be a joint MCL and MCL Auxiliary session, where the newly elected officers of both the Auxiliary and Detachment will be installed. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a joint get-together to celebrate the installation of our new leaders. So as you can see, the next two meetings are very important and all members should make every effort to participate.

Semper Fi,

Joe



Army Should Be More Like Marines

says Army 3-Star General

NOTE – The following blog was posted by James Sanborn in the Military Times (Marine Corps Times) blog 'Battle Rattle' on January 31st.

The head of the Army Reserve said Tuesday that the Army should be more like the Marine Corps – at least in the way the Marine Corps cultivates a strong life-long brotherhood.



Lt. General Jack Stultz,
Head of the Army Reserve

Although Marines and soldiers usually boast about being better than the other, **Lt.**

General Jack C. Stultz, head of the Army Reserve, said at this year's **Reserve Officers Association Symposium** in

Washington, DC, that the Marine Corps does a good job inculcating the idea of "**once a Marine, always a Marine.**" That helps them pull active duty Marines into the Reserve at the end of their service. The Army would do well to mimic that as a way to retain hard-won experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While many soldiers see their four-year contract as finite, many Marines see it as just the first chapter of their military career. Army leadership, he said, often paints a black and white picture by asking soldiers near the end of their service if they are re-enlisting or getting out. They should be asking if soldiers are re-enlisting or transitioning to the Reserve, he said. They could do more to make a career in the reserve an enticing prospect.



U.S. Marine Logic

If you don't understand this,
You've never met Marines...
Why mess with 236+ years of success?

Junior Vice Commandant



Ed Dahling

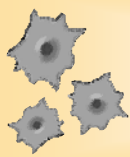
Marines,

As was pointed out at the February meeting, we are in need of nominees (volunteers) to fill our detachment's elected officer positions for the coming fiscal year. Should you be interested in filling one of these positions, please be sure to make your feelings known at the March detachment meeting in order to have your name placed into nomination.

Detachment membership numbers remain in relatively good shape. We continue to attract new members; so, let us welcome aboard our newest member, **Rick Hart** (see *Welcome Aboard* column on page 7). I am sorry to say that as of March 1st, there are *15 members* of our detachment, *who are delinquent in payment of their dues*. So, please check your membership cards to see if your dues are current; *if they are not, please send your dues to me as soon as possible*. That will allow me to get them into the League's Department and National Headquarters and prevent you from being dropped from our roster.

Semper Fi,

Ed Dahling



Pistol Team

by Jake Jahelka



Attention all Pistol shooters! The **MCL Department of Pennsylvania 2012 Pistol Match** will be held **1-3 June 2012** at **Fort Indiantown Gap, PA**. I have all the necessary information and registration forms. See me or obtain a copy of those forms from the distribution box in the Post Canteen. Please carefully *read all of the information sheet, fill out all necessary forms, include your entry fee of \$30.00* (made payable to **A. A. County Det. 1049**) and *return it to me by no later than 10 March 2012 or the March Detachment Meeting at the absolute latest* – the sooner the better for relay assignments.

For those pistol shooters who want to start practicing for the match, I plan on having a shooting session *every Sunday morning* – at the **Associated Gun Clubs (AGC) Bullseye Range** in Marriottsville MD (11518 Marriottsville Road) – starting on **11 March 2012**, with first rounds down range at 0900, so be there early to set up.

Any questions please feel free to 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,

Pound 204 held another very successful growl last month at our Dog House (VFW Post 160) after a good breakfast provided by Anne Arundel County Detachment associate member **Richard Gonzales**. Twenty dogs out of a possible 50 showed up to participate in the Growl. The highlight was the initiation and swearing-in of another **FMF Hospital Corpsman, Paul 'Doc' Gunther**, our Department of Maryland photographer.

This was the third Pound Growl in which Pups desiring to advance in Ocean City next month could have attended to qualify for advancement. The Pound has seven Pups. Four of them have qualified for advancement and one other has only one more Pound Growl to attend in order to qualify. Two Pups will not be able to qualify as we only have one Pound Growl remaining prior to the Grand Growl. Hopefully they will try again next year.

The Growl resulted in another **\$136.00** collected in *passport stamps*; the *50-50 raffle* winner donated another **\$35.00** for the kids, and a late-comer at the bar donated another **\$20.00**, bringing the total raised for the kids to **\$191.00**; another great day for the children's hospital in Mobile, Alabama. **Well done Dogs!**

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

Woof-Woof,

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



Color Guard

by Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

Our Color Guard participated in the wreath laying during the annual commemoration of **Confederate Navy - Marine Corps Day**, which was held at **St. Anne's Cemetery** in Annapolis, Maryland on March 3rd.

As previously noted...the ranks of our Color Guard have severely diminished and **we need a few (two or more) volunteers** to meet our anticipated commitments in the coming months. See the **Have You Heard** column in last month's newsletter for more information.



Battlefield To Ball Field

NOTE – This article is a reprint of one authored by Phil Taylor, which appeared in the July 4, 2011 issue of Sports Illustrated. The photograph is a reproduction of one featured on the [Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team](http://www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org) website.

Allow me to introduce you to your new favorite team. Its players won't win the World Series or reach the Hall of Fame, but you'll never root harder for another ball club, or feel prouder to do so. The shortstop is missing his right foot, taken by a land mine in Afghanistan. One of the outfielders swings the bat like a one-handed tennis backhand because the grenade that hit his armored vehicle in Iraq blew off his right arm up to the shoulder. Some teams use Patriots as a nickname; these guys are the real thing.



Every member of the **Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team** is a war veteran who sacrificed a part of himself in Afghanistan or Iraq. Before they were in the military they were high school or college baseball players, and they have fought through devastating injuries and exhausting, sometimes excruciating rehabilitation to make it back from the battlefield to the ball field. In the process they are proving to everyone, including themselves, that despite missing limbs they are still the same focused, physically capable men they have always been. "It's a new normal," says former Army Specialist **Matt Kinsey**, 26, the shortstop. "We're getting a second chance to be athletes, to do things that we thought we'd never be able to do again. And I think we're doing it at a pretty high level."

Opponents – the Wounded Warriors play only able-bodied teams – would attest to that. In the Warriors' first game, in May, they crushed a team from the **FBI 35 - 10 at George Mason University**, prompting the FBI team's coach and third baseman, **Joe Walsh**, to marvel, "They are studs. I expected them to commit some errors, but they were flawless." So far they've split six games as they barnstorm the Southeast, playing squads from police and fire departments, the **Walter Reed Army Medical Center** and other military teams. "I think teams might underestimate us a little bit at first," says pitcher **Josh Wege**, 22, a Marine Lance Corporal who lost both of his lower legs in 2009 after his armored vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. "But that doesn't last long."

It lasts only until a Wounded Warrior with a prosthetic leg, like third baseman **Saul Bosquez**, dives headfirst into second base on a double, or a one-armed outfielder, like **Nate Lindsey**, catches a fly, flips the ball back into the air as he drops his glove, then snags it with his bare hand to fire it back into the infield. Says their coach, **David Van Sleet**, "Some of these guys run so well that if they wore long pants instead of shorts, you would never know they had prosthetics."

Every player has a horrific tale to tell. Kinsey lost so much blood after stepping on the land mine that he needed two full transfusions. Doctors performed so many surgeries on Bosquez after he lost his leg in an armored vehicle explosion that he

can't remember the exact number. "High teens or low 20s," he says. Wege recalls feeling choked by dirt and sand after the explosion that cost him both his legs. "I was in shock, so the pain didn't set in right away," he says. "Then I looked down and saw that my legs were shredded."

It was the soldier in each Wounded Warrior that kept him from self-pity, and it was the competitor within that motivated him to see how much of his physical skill he could regain. "Whatever part of your body you lost, you're not going to grow it back," says

Kinsey. "So we don't really sit around feeling bad about what happened to us. We chose to just get on with it."

Van Sleet, a prosthetics program manager with the **Department of Veteran Affairs**, was looking for that kind of attitude when he dreamed up the idea for the team last fall. He had been working with prosthetics and severely injured veterans for more than 30 years and coaching and playing softball just as long when he realized his two interests could be a natural fit. He put out a call through the VA for prospective players and wound up with more than 200 candidates, 20 of whom were invited to a five-day tryout at the **University of Arizona**, from which he culled a 15-man roster. The current team is made up of 10 Army vets and five Marines, all of whom have had leg, foot or arm amputations.

"We have about \$2 million worth of prosthetics on this team," Van Sleet says. The prosthetics are custom-made for each player, many with pneumatic springs in the heel and titanium joints that simulate the rotation of human knees, ankles and elbows. Some players use curved, lightweight flexible replacements for their feet that offer increased cushioning when they run. But while the quality of the Wounded Warriors' play has earned them respect, it's the quality of their effort and the depth of their sacrifice that have earned them admiration.

Considering what they've given for their country, is it any wonder that so many people want to give them something back? **Louisville Slugger** has provided more than \$20,000 worth of equipment. A fan who won \$1,200 in a raffle at the FBI game donated it to the team. The **Nationals** have invited them to play at **Nationals Stadium** in September against a Washington-area team still to be determined. (For further information, go to woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org.)

"People have treated us so well," Kinsey says. "We just want to thank everyone for all they've done." Imagine that. After all they've given, these guys want to thank us. Now, I ask you: Who's your favorite team?





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Last Detachment Meeting Recap...

February's meeting had a better turn-out than was the case with our January 2012. A recap of the actions taken at the February meeting are summarized as follows:

- Junior Vice Commandant **Ed Dahling** introduced a prospective member of our detachment – **Richard Hart** – who was subsequently approved by voice vote of those in attendance and sworn in by Detachment Commandant **Joe Wright**. The meeting was temporarily recessed to allow detachment members to introduce themselves and welcome our new member aboard.
- Upon resumption of the meeting, a presentation was given by **Mr. & Mrs. Scott Mallary**, founders of **Truckin 4 Troops**, a relatively new organization that caters to the needs of our wounded warriors and **Marines Helping Marines**. Their current project is to take as many wounded warriors as possible to the **Monster Truck Championships** being held in Las Vegas on March 23rd & 24th (see ad on page 15). A pass-the-hat collection was made and the generosity of those in attendance resulted in \$600 being contributed for **Truckin 4 Troops**.
- Correspondence was read and is summarized as follows:
 - **Mid-East Division Conference**, hosted by **MCL Tarheel Detachment 733**, will be held at the **Hilton Raliegh-Durham Airport Hotel** from **June 15th** through **17th**.
 - **Dept. of Maryland Staff Meeting** and **Pack Growl** (hosted by the **Carroll County Detachment**) will be held on **March 10th** at **American Legion Post 31** in Westminster, MD.
 - Organizers of the **Joint Services Open House** at Andrews Air Force Base are interested in hosting **World War II Marine Corps Veterans** (who served in the *Pacific Theater of Operations*) at their event scheduled for Saturday, **May 19th** at **10:00 AM**.
 - League members are encouraged to show their support for **Tony Begenwald**'s selection as the **Maryland Joint Veterans Commission's Veteran of the Year for 2012** by attending the presentation ceremony and banquet being held at **Bowie Elks Lodge #2309** in Gambrills, MD on Saturday, **March 17th** (see ad on page 15).
- **Commandant Wright** announced that the detachment needs...
 - **Delegates** to the **Department of Maryland Convention** in order to ensure that we have our full number of votes on issues presented and the election of Department Officers for the coming year.
 - Members willing to make a sincere effort to sell **convention book ads** as they are one of our biggest annual fund-raisers that benefit our detachment.
 - Nominations for our detachment's **Marine of the Year** (submitted by no later than our March meeting).
 - Volunteers to assist with our **7th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament**, which will be held on **May 18th** at the **Bay Hills Golf Course**.

- Volunteers to assist with the **September 19th Marines Helping Marines Picnic** at the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda**, which is being co-sponsored by our detachment and the **LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment**.

- Senior Vice Commandant **Chris Kalwa** announced that he now has **convention raffle tickets** for sale. Tickets may be purchased at a cost of **\$10 per ticket** or the bargain price of **\$20 for 3 tickets**.
- Newsletter Editor **Mac McNeir** announced that he is seeking an assistant to help with the publication of **the Cutting Edge**. The intent of his request is to identify and train his replacement prior to stepping down from his position as editor after the publication of the November 2013 issue.
- Past Commandant **Pete Pervi** made a motion that **Jim Brady** be 'gagged' for the remainder of the meeting. Though the motion was attractive to most in attendance, it was not acted upon.
- Past Commandant **Mac McNeir** pointed out that our annual support for the **St. Baldrick's Campaign** against childhood cancers was well behind last year's pace and again solicited the support of the membership.
- Past Commandant **Pete Pervi** supervised the initial nomination process for detachment officers to serve during the 2012-2013 term of office. Nominations made and seconded are summarized below.

Commandant nominee	Joseph Wright
Senior Vice Commandant nominee	Ed Dahling
Junior Vice Commandant nominee	Ray Sturm
Judge Advocate nominee	Charlie Luthardt
- Past Commandant **Pete Pervi** asked members to solicit both **sponsors** and **participants** for our upcoming golf tournament.
- **Jim Brady** pointed out that our fellow detachment member and Department Commandant **Ed Ross** has been invited to attend the **Marine Corps League's South-East Division Convention**. An honor of sorts as league members not affiliated with the hosting division are generally not invited to attend.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Members, who we generally do not see at our monthly meetings, are encouraged to attend future meetings in order to benefit from the first-hand information disseminated as well as the comradeship of their fellow members.



Quotation

"Because our homeland and very survival are once more at stake, the American people can't afford to treat this new war against terrorism like they did Vietnam."

Colonel David Hackworth, USA
(November 11, 1930 – May 4, 2005)



Welcome Aboard



Meet our newest detachment member, **Richard Hart**, who was sworn in at our February meeting.

Rick served as an 0311 (Rifleman) while on active duty (April 1992 through April 1996), he was...

- stationed with the 3rd Battalion 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Division (Camp Lejeune);
- served a 6 month deployment at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan;
- took part in *Operation Team Spirit* in Korea for 1 month;
- went on a Mediterranean float for 6 months aboard the USS Harlan County, where he participated in the *50th D-day Anniversary celebration*;
- served a 3 month stint at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in conjunction with *Operation Sea Signal*, and was
- honorably discharged as a Corporal upon completion of enlistment.



Rick and his wife **Amy** currently reside in Anne Arundel County with their two children – five-year-old son **Jacob** and three-year-old daughter **Grace**.

Rick is currently employed by **United Rentals** as a tractor-trailer driver.

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



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

MISSION BBQ
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Phone: 410-773-9888

7748 Governor Ritchie Hwy.
Glen Burnie MD 21061

*Committed to giving back
to our uniformed forces!*



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Ken Webster

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

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

Beneka Sirko, mother of Annapolis Young Marines – **Joseph** and **Jai**, – has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

Brandon Kalwa, son of Senior Vice Commandant **Chris Kalwa**, was hospitalized recently and at last word was still undergoing tests.

Chris Kalwa, our Senior Vice Commandant, is again suffering back '*miseries*' and is likely to be undergoing his third spinal surgery in the near future.

Chasity Wright, wife of Commandant **Joe Wright**, had her gall bladder removed recently and is now recovering at home.

Chuck Albo recently underwent *pacemaker* surgery as well as *arterial by-pass surgery* in his legs. He is currently on 'light duty' and is recuperating at home.

Fred Downey, a member of our Detachment Color Guard, recently underwent abdominal surgery at the *Baltimore-Washington Medical Center*. He is now rehabilitating at the *Genesis Healthcare* facility in Severna Park.

Sherry Brewer, sister of our Chaplain **Ken Webster** and wife of '**Sonny**' **Brewer** (a Marine Sergeant who served in Vietnam), was recently diagnosed with *stage 4* cancer. She is currently undergoing additional diagnosis to determine future treatment/care plans.

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



*Have you nominated anyone to be the
2011-2012 Detachment Marine of the Year?
It's not too late to make your choice known!*



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Lest We Forget...

Colonel William H. Dabney, USMC (Retired) passed away on February 15th. He was the son-in-law of legendary Marine **Lewis ‘Chesty’ Puller**, and a *Mustang*, who commanded India Company, 3rd Bn 26th Marines on Hill 881S near Khe Sanh for seventy-seven days in early 1968. Colonel Dabney’s Marines held onto that key terrain despite everything the NVA threw at them. Colonel Dabney received a Navy Cross for his actions at Khe Sanh. At the time of his retirement (after 37 years of service) in 1990, he was serving as the *Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC Unit* at VMI and as the *Commandant of the Corps of Cadets*. Among his awards were the *Navy Cross*, *Silver Star*, *Legion of Merit*, *Bronze Star*, and *Purple Heart*.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, **William Howard Dabney, Jr.** and an infant daughter, **Anne Christian Dabney**. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Virginia Puller Dabney**; one sister, **Martha Dabney Leclere**; a daughter-in-law, **Andrea Shilt Dabney**; one son, **Lewis Puller Dabney**; one daughter, **Virginia Keane Dabney Kauders**; and six grandchildren.

Services were held on Sunday, February 26, 2012, at *R.E. Lee Episcopal Church*, which were followed by a reception at VMI. Memorial contributions may be made to *The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation*, 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, VA 22172, or the *VMI Foundation*, 304 Letcher Avenue, Lexington, VA 24450.

NOTE – the preceding information is based upon articles appearing on the U.S. Naval Institute website on February 15, 2012 and the Lynchburg News & Advance website on February 17, 2012.

Jimmie Begay, 88 – one of the ever-shrinking number of *Code-Talkers* – passed away on February 3rd at Tsehootsoi Medical Center in Fort Defiance, AZ.



Code Talker Begay enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1942, when he was 17-years-old. He completed boot camp at Camp Pendleton, CA before being transferred to Camp Elliot to train as a Navajo Code Talker. After code-talker training, Sgt. Begay served with the 1st Marine Division’s 2nd Battalion and took part in campaigns on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. Begay was honorably discharged in 1945. Among his commendations for brave and honorable service in the Pacific is the *Congressional Silver Medal*, which was awarded in 2001.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at *Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament* in Fort Defiance, AZ, which was followed by interment at the family cemetery in Red Lake, NM.

NOTE – the above obituary is an edited version of one that was recently published in the on-line publication Native News Network.

John T. ‘Jack’ Temple of Catonsville, MD – a member of the *Marine Barracks 8th & I Silent Drill Platoon (1952-1954)* – reported to the Supreme Commandant on January 27, 2012. Jack was the beloved husband of **Mary Anne Temple**; loving father of **John J. Temple**, **James M. Temple**, **Mary M. Petroske** and **Angela E. Hancock**. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters. A memorial service was held in the *City Lights Room* at the *Charlestown* (715 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville, MD) on February 11th.



Memorial contributions may be made to the *American Heart Association*, 4217 Park Place, Glen Allen, VA 23090-9979.

NOTE – the preceding obituary is based upon one published in The Washington Post on February 1, 2012.

Gloria Maria Spooner (age 82), wife of retired Marine Corps Major **Richard Spooner**, died on February 3rd, 2012. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, four children – **Anna Marie Spooner**, **Richard W. Spooner**, **Laura Frances Guerrero** and **Jessica Ruth Mooney**; a brother, **George Lopez**, and seventeen grandchildren. The Spooner’s operated the *Globe & Laurel Restaurant* for nearly 45 years. A funeral Mass was conducted at the *Marine Corps Memorial Chapel, Quantico* on Thursday February 9th, which was followed by interment at *Quantico National Cemetery*.



NOTE – the obituary above is an edited version of one published in The News and Messenger on February 5, 2012.

Ethel Marie Jenkins (nee Patera), age 94, mother-in-law of **Jerry Brown** (member of the *Baltimore Detachment and Hound Dog Pound 204 of the MODD*) passed away on February 11, 2012. She was the beloved wife of the late **Joseph Elmer Jenkins**; devoted mother of **Catherine Brown** her husband **Jerry** and **Mary Jane Smith**, loving grandmother of 5, predeceased by 1 granddaughter **Shelby**, great-grandmother of 9, and great-great-grandmother of 4. Mrs. Jenkins was predeceased by all of her siblings; **Arthur**, **Melvin**, and **Gertrude Patera**, and **Norma Spinoso**.



Services were held at the *Evans Funeral Chapel* in Bel Air, MD with interment at the *Gardens of Faith Cemetery*. Memorial contributions may be made to the *American Heart Association*, Mid-Atlantic Association, American Heart Association 4217 Park Place Ct. Glen Allen, VA 23060.

NOTE – the obituary above is based upon one published on-line by the The Evans Funeral Chapel.





Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through **June 29, 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.

Department of Maryland Staff Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 2012 @ 0900 – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 31, 2 Sycamore St., Westminster, MD 21157

MODD, Maryland Pack Growl

Saturday, March 10, 2012 (after the Dept. Staff Meeting) – Ed Ross
American Legion Post 31, Westminster, MD

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary (Officer Elections)

Monday, March 26, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

Friday Night Dinner, Detachment 1049 Auxiliary

Friday, March 30, 2012 from 1800 to 2000 – Dawn Parker

MCL Leadership Training

Saturday, April 14, 2012 – Joe Wright

MODD, Pound 204 Growl

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

Monthly Meetings, Detachment 1049 & Auxiliary (Joint Meeting / New Officer Installations)

Monday, April 23, 2012 @ 1900 – Joe Wright / Dawn Parker

2012 Department of Maryland Convention

Thursday, April 26 through 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

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



Corps History

by Historian Vic Halme

2 March 1968

The **Battle of Hue** declared over. Estimates of communist casualties (NVA & Viet Cong) ranged between 2,500 and 5,000; while Marine casualties were reported as 142 killed and 1,100 wounded.

3 March 1776

First Marine landing on hostile shores in the Bahamas.

6 March 1932

John Philip Sousa dies at age 79 in Reading, Pennsylvania.

8 March 1928

Captain **Merritt Edson** sets out on epic CoCo River patrol in search of Nicaraguan rebel leader Sandino.

8 March 1965

9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade lands at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam – first U.S. ground combat troops committed to that conflict.

12 March 1824

Marines quell prison riot in Boston. Story published in *McGuffey's Reader* spreads Marine Corps fame.

12 March 2003

President **George W. Bush** signed an executive order establishing two new awards – the **Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal** and the **Global War on Terrorism Service Medal** – to recognize sacrifices and contributions made by military members since 11 September 2001.

13 March 1943

First Women Marine officer candidates arrive at U.S. Midshipmen School at **Mount Holyoke College**.

16 March 1927

4th Marines land in Shanghai, China and remain for fourteen years.

21 March 2007

Major **William D. Chesarek, Jr.** awarded *British Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)* by **Queen Elizabeth II** in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. His actions on 10 June 2006 in support of British ground troops – while serving as an exchange officer with the **British 847th Naval Air Squadron** – lead to him becoming the first American since World War II to receive the British DFC.

23 March 2003

18 Marines of Task Force **Tarawa** lost attempting to secure the Iraqi city **An Nasiriyah** and key bridges over the **Euphrates River**.

26 March 1945

Iwo Jima secured. Marines suffer 25,851 casualties.

31 March 1801

Lt. Colonel Commandant **William W. Burrows** & President **Thomas Jefferson** select site for **Marine Barracks, 8th & I.**



Jungle Delicacy?



A U.S. Marine wears the skin of a cobra around his head...and holds its entrails between his teeth during a jungle survival program, which is part of the annual Cobra Gold 2012 exercise in Thailand.

[Photo by P. Kittiwongsakul / Agence France-Presse via Getty Images]

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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 **April** include:

Chuck Albo	Gary Barr	Nicholas Dubich	Robert Eckardt
Charles Fisher	Chris Kalwa	William Merrill	Timothy Muniz
George Owings	John Reistrup	Jack Severn	Lawrence Shifflet
James Terry	Franklin Wood		



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland



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2012 Department Convention

Princess Royale
Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center
Ocean City, Maryland

26 - 28 April 2012

Hotel Reservation Deadline – Sunday 1 April, 2012

**Be sure to state that you are with the
Marine Corps League Convention**



Young Marines

Just have a few things to report upon this month.

- The Young Marines recently held a *candy sale* as a fundraiser.
- Former Young Marines 1st Sergeant **Michael Imann** left for recruit training at **MCRD Parris Island** on February 5th.
- Six Annapolis Young Marines recently attended the *Division 2 Winter Encampment* ('**Frozen Chosin**' weekend), where...
 - GySgt Skylar Wisomierski received the *Personal Commendation Ribbon*; while, Cpl Cameron Granger & L/Cpl Jonathan Odea both received *Meritorious Masts*.
 - All six Young Marines qualified on the rifle range.
 - Everyone had a great time even though I was personally disappointed that there was no SNOW.
- Our Young Marines presented the Colors at the opening of the **Blue-grass Jam for Fisher House**.

Overall, the Young Marines are performing well; and as always, thanks to Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 for its support.

Respectfully,

George Martin

Young Marines Commander

One Marine's Perspective

A Marine Captain states 'We don't know how to supervise anymore'

EDITOR'S NOTE – The following blog was posted by Dan Lamothe in the *Military Times (Marine Corps Times)* blog 'Battle Rattle' on February 14th. This article and the acts in question are controversial; however, the fact that these acts happened in such a brief period of time, forces one to ask... *Are these acts an indictment of current Corps' leadership or simply unfortunate and thoughtless acts of young men caught up in the insanity of the combat environment?* Our history and traditions require (1) an answer to that question and (2) the appropriate remedial actions be taken!

It has been a rough few months in the public relations department for the Marine Corps.

In separate incidents, the Corps has taken hits in the last few months for the *hazing-related death of Lance Corporal Harry Lew*, the revelation that *Marines in Afghanistan urinated on the corpses of dead Taliban* last year and the scout sniper community's *use of the stylized 'lighting bolt' SS logo* popularized by the notorious Nazi SS organization.

Time magazine's military blog, *Battleland*, ties those themes together in a blog post today provocatively titled, "*What's Wrong with the Marines?*" Some readers will be quick to point out the mainstream media's alleged hatred for the military, but it's worth considering where *Battleland* got its fodder: an active-duty officer.

Captain Brett Friedman argues on the *Marine Corps Gazette's* blog that while it's possible rank-and-file snipers in the recent logo controversy didn't know the symbol's significance, it's not possible that all staff noncommissioned officers and officers in charge of scout sniper units across the Corps didn't.

"No way," he writes. "*They just refused to do anything about it.*"

Friedman then broadens his argument to make a broader point: "*We don't know how to supervise anymore.*" A segment of his piece is provided as follows:

Our culture has brought us to the point where we all bear responsibility for these events. Every one of us. Every NCO who is more concerned with knocking out a checklist than mentoring his young Marines. Every SNCO who spends time searching out uniform regulation infractions. Every officer more concerned with paperwork and formats than setting an example. Every Marine, of any rank, who has told a subordinate to "shut up and color" when he or she pointed out that something was wrong. Our acquiescence to a culture of corrosive leadership has created this problem. We allowed leadership to be conflated with the creation and rote memorization of irrelevant regulations. We stopped mentoring and started poor parenting. We allowed bureaucratization to drown professionalism. We fostered a belief that we are special snowflakes who need rules, but not morality. We hazed Lance Corporal Lew. We desecrated human bodies. We posed in front of Nazi symbology. It's our fault that the Commandant has had to publicly apologize for a problem that our poor leadership caused.

Friedman isn't pulling punches, and he isn't some outsider looking in. One wonders: What kind of attention will his writing receive?



Bombastic Bumper-Snicker:



*If your attack is going too well...
you may be walking into an ambush!*



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

Corps' Boxers End Army 20 Year Streak

NOTE – The following article is an edited version of one authored by Petty Officer Elliott Fabrizio, HQMC posted in the online version of the Quantico Sentry on February 7th.



The All-Marine Boxing Team won gold during the 2012 United States Armed Forces Boxing Tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA on February 3rd. Members of the team are slated to compete for places on the 2012 USA Olympic Boxing Team.
[Photo by PFC Trevon Perraca, MCB PAO]

The Marine Corps team won the **2012 Armed Forces Boxing Championship** on February 3, ending the Army's 20-year winning streak. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA was the site of this year's Armed Forces Sports event.

In the final bout of the night, **Marine Sgt. DeJesus Gardner** taking gold against **Army Sgt. Marvin Carey** became the crux between Marine Corps victory and a tie with Army. Gardner's left eye swelled closed early in the fight, but the audience went wild when the ringside doctor allowed the fight to continue. The crowd's fervor escalated into a frenzy in the third round as Gardner and Carey smashed blows into each other, trading the point lead back and forth, but in the final 20 seconds of the fight, Gardner edged his way to a 14-13 win.

Gardner won gold in the **201 lb. plus weight class** and secured the gold for the team award, but each Marine Corps victory was essential.

In a rematch of 2011's Championships, **Marine Cpl. Tommy Roque** redeemed himself against **Army Sgt. Toribio Ramirez**, pummeling his way to a win 35-19. Roque represents the Marine Corps' boxing team in the **132 lb.** weight class.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Steele won when the referee stopped the contest a minute into the second round, battering **Navy Aviation Machinist Mate Second Class Carlos Moore** who lost his footing and rolled his ankle early in the fight. Steele fights in the **152 lb. weight class**.

National Champion and 2011 Armed Forces Boxing Gold Medalist **Marine Sgt. Jamel Herring** defended his title against **Senior Airman Adam Hassan**, breezily banging his way to a 19-5 victory in the **141 lb. weight class**. *"The team medal means more to me than any individual medal,"* said Herring. *"I'm just happy to be a part of the team that made history tonight."*

Two Marine boxers took silver medals. **Lance Cpl. Felix Magallanez** lost, when his coach ended the fight in the second round after he took a devastating body blow from **Army Pvt. Marquis Moore** and couldn't recover. Magallanez fights for the Marine Corps in the **165 lb. weight class**, dropping down from last year's championship when he fought at **178 lb.**

In this year's **178 lb. weight class**, **Lance Cpl. James Morrow** got crushed with punishing barrages from **Army Specialist Steven Nelson**, losing out 20-2.

Gold medalists in the **Armed Forces Championship** now prepare to fight in the **USA Boxing Nationals**, a critical qualifier for the **2012 Olympics** and a qualifier for the **Conseil International du Sport Militaire's World Military Games**.



Did You Know?

Increased Social Security Benefits For Vets

Anyone with active duty service between **January 1957** and **December 31, 2001** may qualify for increased Social Security Benefits. ***This benefit is NOT just for military retirees, it is for all veterans who served during the indicated period!***

This program is not applicable for service on/after 1 January 2002.

If you served during the indicated period, you could receive up to \$1,200 per year of earnings credit – credited at time of application – which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement.

If your active military service occurred

- From 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

Additional Info may be obtained at the Social Security website:

<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>



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



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

Navy Destroyers to be Named for Heroes

NOTE – The following article by Sam Fellman appeared in the February 15th on-line edition of the Marine Corps Times.

The three latest destroyers will be named for Navy and Marine Corps heroes from Pearl Harbor, Vietnam and the Iraq war, the Navy announced in a statement Wednesday.

The destroyers will be named in honor of:

- **John Finn**, the then-chief petty officer who manned a machine gun during the Pearl Harbor attack. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery. He retired as a lieutenant and died in 2010 at age 100.
- **Ralph Johnson**, the Marine private first class who hurled himself onto an explosive in Vietnam, saving a life and preventing a breach of a patrol's perimeter. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.
- **Rafael Peralta**, the Marine staff sergeant who shielded fellow Marines from a grenade with his own body in Iraq. Peralta was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

“Finn, Johnson and Peralta have all been recognized with some of our nation’s highest awards,” Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said in the statement. “I want to ensure their service and sacrifice will be known by today’s sailors and Marines and honored for several decades to come by a new generation of Americans and people from around the world who will come in contact with these ships.”

The announcement also included the names for the two latest littoral combat ships, which will honor two Midwestern U.S. cities that are roughly 100 miles apart.

- Sioux City, for the city in western Iowa.
- Omaha, for the city in eastern Nebraska.

“I chose the name[s] for our two new littoral combat ships after Midwestern cities from America’s heartland, to honor the patriotic, hard-working citizens of Sioux City, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska, for their support of and contributions to the military,” Mabus said.

These names conform to the general convention of naming LCS vessels for mid-sized cities. One recent exception was the February 10th announcement naming LCS 10 for former **U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords**, who survived an assassination attempt in January 2011 in Tucson, Az. Because this was an exception to the convention, it has come under fire from some critics. *“There are many appropriate ways to honor Mrs. Giffords, but this is not one of them,”* *The Washington Times* newspaper wrote in a February 13th editorial.

The latest ship names may be in response to some of the furor over recent names. Congress, in a defense bill last year, ordered the defense secretary to review the Navy’s naming policy and requested that the “next available” ship be named for Peralta in a defense bill last year.



*Join us on our chartered round-trip
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in **Mobile Alabama***

Contact Jim Brady @ 202-3124-1782 or jbrady@ushmm.org for details

7th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament



Friday,
May 18, 2011
9:00 AM

Bay Hills
Golf Club
Arnold, MD

We Need Golfers... Sponsors... & Volunteers!

Contact Pete Pervi for more information

Marine Homecoming... *(continued from page 1)*

Tomlinson's hometown of Jacksonville – in northeast – Alabama, made sure he wouldn't feel forgotten and staged a welcome-home celebration [that] veteran groups say should be a national model, now that fighting has ended in Iraq. Although St. Louis is the only large city to hold a major parade for returning veterans, thousands of people lined the streets of Jacksonville and packed the town square to greet Tomlinson upon his return from the war, waving flags and giving money to help make his home more wheelchair accessible.

"We need this to happen much more around the country, but [I] do not believe it actually occurs as much as it is needed because the wars have been going for such a long period of time," said Vietnam veteran **John Stewart**, who heads **Operation Welcome Home** in Inverness, Fla.

More than being just a one-day morale boost, Tomlinson said the lavish homecoming in the city of 7,700 people inspired him to work harder on his rehabilitation so friends and neighbors knew he is trying hard to get better.

"This is not the way I am going to be forever," said Tomlinson, 24, working out with dumbbells in the TV room at his home. He's getting stronger little by little, his biceps filling out after months shuttling between hospitals and doctor's appointments. He's hopeful of walking again one day.

Tomlinson played football and baseball and ran track at Jacksonville High School before graduating in 2006 and going to Mississippi College to play football. But college ball just wasn't the same as high school athletics, and he took a buddy's suggestion to consider the Marines. He was interested in joining a Force Reconnaissance squad, the ***"baddest of the bad,"*** as Tomlinson put it. These are the Marines on the tip of the spear, the troops who go first into hostile areas.

"It sounded pretty intense," said Tomlinson. ***"It was!"***

Tomlinson arrived in Afghanistan in May 2009. Three months later, while securing a road during a drug raid in a marketplace, a mortar hit the top of a building near where he was standing. Shrapnel peppered his body.

"I got a piece in the neck, a piece hit me in the nose, but the worst part of that was getting a piece stuck in the radial nerve in my arm," said Tomlinson. ***"There's really no relief from pain when you have something stuck in your nerve."***

Surgery followed, and Tomlinson was back on duty three weeks later after taking a cast off his arm with the help of a medic, who removed his stitches. Tomlinson's tour of duty ended, but he was back in Afghanistan for another seven-month stint by November 2010.

With only one or two missions left on his second tour, Tomlinson was atop a roof in an Afghan village controlled by the Taliban while other troops looked for weapons and bomb-making materials.

"We were doing that for about five or six hours. I want to say it was the middle of the day, and I got up to move, and as soon as I got up..." Tomlinson said.

"It wasn't like I heard anything or really felt anything. It was like a sudden shock to my body, and then my vision went kind of obscured, and I couldn't move and I just started falling back and 'boom,' hit the roof, and that's when I realized I'd probably been hit," he said.

The slug entered the back of Tomlinson's left shoulder near the base of his neck and traveled to his chest, damaging his spine and leaving him unable to move from the chest down. Evacuated from Afghanistan first to Germany and then the United States, he spent months at a hospital in Tampa, Florida, before returning home to Alabama on January 18th to a hero's welcome: People lined the roads for miles leading from the airport to Jacksonville, and U.S. flags were everywhere. Businesses all over town put out welcome home signs.

Several thousand people filled the town square for a ceremony, and some 800 students and faculty from Jacksonville High greeted him at his house, which is directly across the street from the school.

"All I could say was, 'Wow,'" Tomlinson said.

With such a welcome home, Tomlinson said he knew he hadn't been forgotten – his worst fears weren't realized.

"People I didn't even know were thinking about me when this happened," he said.

Stewart, himself a Vietnam veteran, said such receptions can only help troops coming home from multiple deployments after a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Everyone is familiar with the horrendous reception we Vietnam veterans received when returning from the war and we must never, ever let that happen again," he said. ***"We must honor our heroes. We must remember their sacrifices."***



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Call 1-888-899-BALD and make your pledge over the telephone.

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

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2012 Veteran of the Year Tony Begenwald

By Attending the Presentation Ceremony/Banquet

Bowie Elks Lodge #2309
1506 Defense Highway (Rt. 450)
Gambrills (Crofton), Md.

Saturday, March 17, 2012
from 4:00 – 8:00 PM

\$35 per person

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Contact Bob Flick @ 410 451-1529 for tickets
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Humor

Quality ... Not Quantity

The Commanding Officer of a Russian military academy (the equivalent of a 4-star general in the U.S.) gave a lecture on *Potential Problems and Military Strategy*. At the end of the lecture, he asked if there were any questions.

An officer stood up and asked, "*Will there be a third world war? And will Russia take part in it?*"

The general answered both questions in the affirmative.

Another officer asked, "*Who will be the enemy?*"

The general replied, "*All indications point to China.*"

Everyone in the audience was shocked. A third officer queried, "*General, we are a nation of only 150 million, compared to the 1.5 billion Chinese. Can we win at all, or even survive?*"

The general answered, "*Just think about this for a moment: In modern warfare, it is not the quantity of soldiers that matters but the quality of an army's capabilities. For example, in the Middle East we have had a few wars recently where 5 million Jews fought against 150 million Arabs, and Israel was always victorious.*"

After a small pause, yet another officer – from the back of the auditorium – asked, "*Do we have enough Jews?*"





Marine Corps League
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 Galen Murphy-Fahlgren, a 22-year-old anti-tank missileman with Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and a native of Canton, Michigan, hands candy to a group of Afghan children during a partnered security patrol with Afghan Border Police.

[USMC photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder – 2/3/2012]