



Mideast Division Bulletin April 2017

This Mideast Division Bulletin is to provide communication on administrative policy and pending events within the division. These are areas that I want the Departments and Detachments to focus on to ensure the Mideast Division complies with directives from MCL National HQ. Disseminate this information to all detachments. Departments are requested to submit any information on scheduled events within their area to the Division Adjutant, Roger Ware at rrware@yahoo.com and Division Web Sgt, Robin Elder at mclmideast@gmail.com. The Division web site is: www.mclmideast.com. The Chain of Command is: Individual - Detachment - Department - Division - National.

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Mideast Division Membership

Here are the total paid membership of the Mideast Division as of 3/31/17. NVC McLain asks each department to scan over their rosters and contact all unpaid and see if we can reduce the unpaid.

<u>3/31/17</u>	<u>12/31/16</u>	<u>9/30/16</u>	<u>6/30/16</u>	<u>3/31/16</u>	<u>12/31/15</u>	<u>9/30/15</u>
<u>6/30/15</u>						
5734	6085	6227	6183	6220	6078	5996
6188						

Here are the totals for the Division as of 3/31/17

PLM: 3489 Paid: 2245 Total Paid: 5734 Unpaid: 1345

Here are the changes since the 12/31/16 membership roster:

PLM -15 Paid: -346 Total Paid: -341 Unpaid: +262

The Mideast Division Membership on: 3/31/16 - **6220** 6/30/16 -**6183** 9/30/16 -**6227** 12/31/16 - **6085**
 This is a decrease of 341 since 12/31/16. Total Unpaid 3/31/16 was **1098**. 9/30/16 was **1039** 12/31/16 was **1083** This is increase of 262 unpaid since 12/31/16.

National Membership has sent the 3rd quarter detachment membership rosters to the NVC's who sent it to all the Departments.. This listed the members in each detachment including Paid Life Members (PLM), Paid (those paying annual dues) and Total Paid (includes PLM and dues paying) and all Unpaid. Only the Detachment Paymaster receives the detachment copy while the Department Commandant and Department Paymaster receive a copy of every detachment membership. Detachment Paymasters need to share this information with their Commandant and Jr Vice Commandant as well as those members of their Detachment Membership Retention Team (MRT). Every unpaid member listed must be contacted either via telephone call or letter and encouraged to continue paying their dues. The Commandant should ensure that every member of their detachment is contacted at least every 3 months. Communication is extremely important as it ensures your members are informed of your detachment activities and events so they can attend meetings and assist with some of your events. Due to the transition of All dues expiring on August 31 yearly, it is extremely important that each detachment track their unpaid members. Each Detachment to be proactive and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that all unpaid members are informed of this change over. Departments must maintain contact with all your detachments during this transition to all dues expiring August 31 yearly. The membership cards will have Sep 1. National is not going to send out any more dues renewal notices so you will need to follow up with your membership and track all your unpaid. Every Department Commandant received an email that included:

National Convention Registration Form, National Convention Agenda and copies of their Department roster that listed every detachment. Departments are to distribute copies to their respective detachments. If a detachment is interested in a list of Delinquent members (past 2 years) that do not show on the roster, they can send an email to National HQ and request one.

Division Marine of the Year

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2017 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Roger Ware - Department of West Virginia The other committee members are: Bud Raines and Tony Begenwald - Department of Maryland, Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware and Mike McLain Department of West Virginia The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2017 Mideast Division Conference, June 24, 2017 in Durham, NC. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than May 15, 2017. Mail to Roger Ware, 181 Weese St, Elkins, WV 26241. Telephone: 304-636-4365. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2017 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2017 Marine of the Year selection only.

Division Marine of the Year Criteria

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination. All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant). Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairman, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested, to: the Chairman at the address listed on the announcement.

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected

or appointed position within his detachment and department. List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year.

The recommendation should summarize what the member has done in his detachment, and or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the candidate performed that brought credit upon his detachment and not merely list that he performed the duties expected of his position and or attended meetings. What were the results of any activities he participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his position.

List those activities where he was the chairman or committee lead. Examples: Toys for Tots for 15 years and how many toys collected and how many children benefited. Chairman of numerous fund raising events that benefited detachment or selected charities. What was the total amount generated. Did he teach flag etiquette or flag folding to children, how many classes and how many kids for how many years.

What civic projects or volunteer did he do to enhance the league. If he did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it. What did he do as a volunteer outside of his detachment for the league. Was he recognized within his community for a project.

The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his MCL awards. Did he attend his department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter Staff Conference, National Convention

The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process. Consideration can be giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his detachment for either serving on department, division or national level and on any committees.

VA Now Paying Compensation To Victims of Contaminated Lejeune Water

On March 14, 2017 the VA begins providing disability benefits to Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members affected by the contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, NC. All claims will be handled through the Louisville, KY VA office.

Disability Benefits For Veterans Who Were Stationed At Camp Lejeune

VA has established a rule stating that those who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, including all satellite camps and housing areas, from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases can now receive disability benefits::

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

- Parkinson's disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

Health Benefits

In accordance with the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law, the VA also provides free health care for certain conditions to Veterans who served at least 30 days of active duty at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987

Qualifying health conditions for free health care include:

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- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Esophageal cancer | • Lung cancer |
| • Breast cancer | • Bladder cancer |
| • Kidney cancer | • Leukemia |
| • Multiple myeloma | • Myelodysplastic syndromes |
| • Renal toxicity | • Hepatic steatosis |
| • Female infertility | • Miscarriage |
| • Scleroderma | • Neurobehavioral effects |
| • Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | |

Camp Lejeune Family Member Health Care Reimbursement

Family members of Veterans who also resided at Camp Lejeune or qualifying nearby areas during the qualifying period are eligible for reimbursement of out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered health conditions. VA can only pay treatment costs that remain after payment from your other health plans. To submit an application for family care reimbursement you should submit:

- Documentation showing dependent relationship to a Veteran who served at Camp Lejeune, such as marriage license or birth certificate
- Documentation showing you lived on the base for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987 such as copies of orders or base housing records
- You paid health care expenses for a covered condition respective to the following date ranges.
 - If you lived on Camp Lejeune between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after August 6, 2012
 - If you lived on Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1956, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after December 16, 2014

When evidence is not submitted, VA will use all relevant evidence from internal sources and the Department of Defense (DoD) to support your application. Please be aware it may take longer to review your application.

Family members should apply online for reimbursement or call 866-372-1144 for help.

Lejeune Vet Claims to Be Approved Faster for 8 Illnesses

The Marine Corps has begun outreach to hundreds of thousands of veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, N.C., at least 30 days from August 1953 to December 1987, inviting them or surviving spouses to file for VA compensation if veterans suffered one of eight ailments linked to water contamination on the base.

On Wednesday March 22, the Corps sent an email “blast” to more than 120,000 Lejeune veterans who had shared current online addresses on a registry created to identify and educate potential victims of polluted drinking water at Lejeune over a 34-year period, in an era that ended 30 years ago.

The email explained that veterans who can show they served at Lejeune from Aug. 1, 1953, to Dec. 31, 1987, for 30 days or more, are now eligible to file fast-track VA disability compensation claims for eight conditions. The “presumptive” ailments for Lejeune vets are: adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma; Parkinson’s disease.

The Marine Corps will follow its email blast with a postal mailing of 200,000 over the next several weeks to home addresses on file with the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water website: <https://cldr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/Home.aspx>.

Mailing will advise veterans and survivors that medical science affirms a strong association between compounds that leached into drinking water at Lejeune and the eight ailments. On March 14, a final VA regulation accelerated the processing of qualifying for disability pay. Even drilling reservists who spent weekends and annual training at Lejeune, also for a total of at least 30 days, will be found eligible for VA compensation if they have one of the presumptive ailments.

If Lejeune veterans died from any of the ailments, their surviving spouses or children will see claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) fast tracked too, under the accelerated process established for Lejeune victims.

Years ago, studies confirmed that Lejeune water had been contaminated by benzene, vinyl chloride and two volatile organic compounds — trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry-cleaning agent.

In 2012 Congress passed the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act, which opened VA medical care to Lejeune vets diagnosed with one of 15 ailments linked to the pollutants. Because family members aren’t eligible for VA care, the law made VA payer-of-last-resort for Lejeune family members diagnosed with one of the 15 illnesses if their employer or family health insurance fails to cover all treatment costs or they have no insurance.

By December 2015, then-VA Secretary Bob McDonald vowed to use his secretarial authority to review the science again and begin to compensating Lejeune vets for disabling conditions most associated with the tainted water. A year later, VA published an interim rule that found eight of the original 15 conditions having a strong association to chemical exposures at Lejeune.

A VA technical workgroup led the comprehensive reviews of evidence, working with the

Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, explained Bradley Flohr, senior adviser for the Veterans Benefits Administration's Compensation Service, in a phone interview.

"We reviewed medical [and] scientific reports of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program and Environmental Protection Agency, which looked at these contaminants and the potential for development of diseases," he said.

VA's final rule March 14 allows payment of claims using the presumptive conditions to begin. Presumptive ailment claims can be reviewed by any VA regional office. If Lejeune claims involve any non-presumptive illnesses, however, they still must be referred to Louisville Regional Office, which coordinates to have an environmental health specialist review the evidence and give a medical opinion.

That process, Flohr said, still "takes quite a bit of time."

More than 18,000 Lejeune veterans have filed compensation claims in recent years for roughly 50,000 medical conditions. Only 1100 of these veterans have seen at least one claimed condition approved for compensation, Flohr said.

"Of the 50,000 unique conditions we decided," Flohr said, "about 39,000 were for what we classified as miscellaneous conditions. That is, we have no other category to put them in. They're not cancers [or] anything else we would track."

Most of the claimed conditions show no association to exposures at Lejeune.

"They are filing claims for anything — hearing loss, arthritis, hurt backs — all kinds of things with no relationship to the contaminants in the water," Flohr said.

The Navy Department estimates that from 1953 through 1987, roughly 900,000 veterans were stationed at Camp Lejeune including 123,000 reserve personnel who conducted weekend drills and annual training there. Of all of those veterans, VA projects that almost 12 percent, or just over 107,000 of active duty veterans, reservists and survivors will file claims by 2022 worth \$2.2 billion.

Among first claims being reviewed under the new regulation are 1400 filed over the past year that VA stayed rather than denied because they involved one of the eight conditions now deemed presumptive. They will be approved quickly "if they don't involve any non-presumptive conditions," Flohr said. "This is certainly making it a lot easier for someone who has one of these eight diseases."

Flohr added that over time more medical studies and new scientific evidence could support adding diseases to the presumptive list for Lejeune.

The Marine Corps mailings will urge veterans who had earlier claims denied, particularly if they involved one of the newly presumptive ailments, to re-file their claims. They will be approved at least back to March 14 but possibly to an earlier effective date if the evidence ties their condition to Lejeune exposures, Flohr said.

VA never provided compensation before to reserve component members for environmental exposures involving weekend drills and annual training versus periods of active service. The Lejeune situation in that regard is unique and could create some challenges to document 30 days' reserve time exposure.

“It may not be all that difficult but it might be in some cases,” Flohr said. The Marine Corps hopes to reach as many Lejeune vets as possible about the new presumptive diseases. In addition to website, it operates a call center Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time. The phone number is: 877-261-9782. Lejeune vets with medical evidence of a presumptive disease and documents showing Lejeune service in the period of contamination can file claims using VA Form 21-526EZ. Veterans Service Organizations can help file for benefits. Claims also can be filed electronically through eBenefits.

Medical ID Bracelets & Pendants - How To Get

Medical IDs are an important benefit that veterans can claim, free of charge. It is Veterans Health Administration policy (file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/12009007%20(1).pdf) that medical ID bracelets and pendants are made available for veteran patients at no cost. Medical ID is jewelry that could save your life. Medical conditions like diabetes, heart problems, PTSD, and injuries like embedded metal fragments can be engraved onto the surface of a medical ID bracelet or necklace. A veteran’s medical ID can also include prescribed medicines and emergency contacts. Veterans can choose from the below veterans’ medical alert bracelets and necklaces from American Medical ID, free of charge.

In the event of an emergency, this important information can help first responders and/or doctors in providing veterans with the precise treatment at the right time. Wearing a medical ID protects against potentially harmful medical errors and eliminates unnecessary trips to the hospital. It is easy to claim your veteran medical ID with the help of your clinician. Follow these simple steps to obtain this benefit:

- Step 1: Download and print the VA information sheet to bring to your VA clinician <https://www.americanmedical-id.com/media/wysiwyg/PDFs/AMI-VAHandout2016v3.pdf>
- Step 2: Select from the available medical ID styles on the information sheet.
- Step 3: Visit your clinician to discuss the engraving information on your medical alert bracelet or necklace.
- Step 4: Submit the VA information sheet to your clinician who will process your order with a Purchasing Agent.

Your medical ID will ship to your desired address once the order is complete

VA Copay - Debt Options

VA offers a wide range of services to support Veterans including financial assistance options to pay co-payments associated with VA health care. Veterans are responsible for those co-payments and if not paid in a timely manner will be referred to the Department of Treasury for collection. However, if at any time Veterans are unable to make their co-payments, VA can help with arrangements to include repayment plans and other debt relief options such as a compromise or waiver. VA will also consider temporary or permanent eligibility changes to accommodate a Veteran’s financial situation. Veterans are encouraged to contact VA directly to make payment arrangements within 120 days from

the date the charge is applied to the account.

VA's current billing process provides Veterans with three monthly billing statements in an attempt to collect co-payments. If a Veteran receives VA benefit payments, VA may use these benefit payments to collect any unpaid delinquent co-payment debt. If a Veteran does not have any VA benefit payments, the debt is referred to the Department of the Treasury Debt Management Service at 120 days for collection action. At this point, Treasury will issue an official notification letter to Veterans to make payment arrangements and if arrangements are not made, Treasury will begin collection actions. These collection actions could include any eligible Federal payments including income tax refunds, Social Security benefits, retirement pay, and certain other Federal or State payments. Treasury can also collect the debt from civilian salaries through administrative wage garnishment or they can collect the debt through private collection agencies. Once a debt is referred to Treasury, VA can no longer accept payments for that debt.

VA will work with Veterans to manage their financial responsibilities and assist in making arrangements to avoid collection actions; however, Veterans must contact VA to request assistance. Veterans who have questions about their co-payment obligations are encouraged to contact the Facility Revenue Office at their local medical center, or call the Health Resource Center's toll-free number listed at the top of their monthly billing statement. As always, Veterans have the right to dispute a debt and will continue to receive healthcare services from VA regardless of their ability to pay assessed co-payment charges.

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USMC Reunions - Website Established

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller has emphasized that reunions are an important tool in curbing suicides, and now the Corps has launched a website to help currently serving Marines and veterans keep connected. The "Year of the Reunion" website <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/reunion> is meant to help Marines organize reunions and announce upcoming events, Neller said in a recent message to the Corps. "We learn, share, mourn, celebrate, and protect each other by coming together and telling stories," Neller said in ALMAR 006/17. "Reunions, and the connections strengthened by them, offer an environment in which we are reminded of who we are." The website is meant to provide a template to help arrange the logistics and planning for reunions, Neller wrote in the message. He also encouraged Marines and veterans to post photographs, anecdotes and after-action reports from their reunions on the website. "I ask all Marines to get connected," Neller said in the message. "Find your fellow Marines. Reach out, catch up, and when needed, help others. While hosting a reunion may be a complicated undertaking, I know Marines are up to that task."

Last year, Neller told Marine Corps Times that reunions offer currently serving Marines and veterans an opportunity to share their stories. He praised the April 2016 reunion of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines — which lost 25 Marines during its 2011 deployment to Afghanistan — as a model that other units could follow. "Other units have been in tough fights and they've come back and they've had a significant number of Marines take their

lives,” Neller said in a May 17 interview. “This battalion has had two [suicides].” Reunions allow Marines to relive the sense of camaraderie they experienced when they served together, he said. Sharing experiences is an age-old tradition common to warrior cultures. “The old men tell their stories of war — the young warriors listen and they learn and they get ready mentally for what they’re going to face,” Neller said. “History teaches us a lot of things.”

Flashbacks - Strategies for Coping With Them

Flashbacks happen when you feel like you are reliving a traumatic experience or memory. They can occur day or night, and can occur recently or even years after the event. You may remember the entire event or only details such as sounds and smells. Flashbacks can occur in veterans who have experienced a traumatic event. While not always, flashbacks are often a symptom of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They can occur as a result of combat, a training accident, sexual trauma or other traumatic events. If you are having flashbacks, know you are not alone. Help is available.

It is important to talk to your health care provider if you have flashbacks. Flashbacks, as well as other PTSD symptoms, can eventually limit your ability to enjoy life and affect how you act in social settings. This includes at work or in your family life. A provider can explain why flashbacks may be occurring and help you work through them with an effective treatment. Potential treatments include:

Prolonged exposure therapy <http://www.realwarriors.net/go/Prolonged-exposure-therapy>: Repeatedly talking about the traumatic event in memory and describing the event aloud in detail until your memories of it no longer feel upsetting.

Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) <http://www.realwarriors.net/go/Eye-movementdesensitization-and-reprocessing> : While thinking about or discussing your memories, you are taught to shift your focus away from the memories. For example, you may focus on eye movements or tapping instead. This can help change how you react to memories of your trauma.

Cognitive processing therapy <http://www.realwarriors.net/go/Cognitive-processing-therapy>: This type of therapy teaches you skills to change your negative thoughts and beliefs associated with trauma so they become less distressing. You can then begin to change how you feel and your behavior.

Take Control While the occurrence of flashbacks usually improves as your PTSD treatment progresses, there are strategies (<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/cope/coping-traumatic-stress.asp>) you can use to better manage flashbacks in between your appointments. They can help you safely cope and prevent flashbacks from affecting your daily life. If you are experiencing flashbacks, try these tips on your own during or right after a flashback.

Tell yourself you are having a flashback. Talk to yourself (literally) and note where you are now and that you are safe.

- Remind yourself that the traumatic event is over. It happened in the past and you are in the present.
- Help yourself stay present by using your five senses. Look around you. Walk into another room and drink a glass of water. Speak with a loved one you trust.
- Know what makes you feel secure. For example, wrapping a warm blanket around yourself, practicing breathing or relaxation exercises (<http://www.realwarriors.net/active/treatment/relaxation.php>), or calling a friend.
- Learn the triggers that lead to your flashback. After a flashback, use a notebook to write down what happened right before, what you heard and how you felt.

If you are having flashbacks as the result of military service or other life stress, know that reaching out is a sign of strength. Contact the DCoE Outreach Center to confidentially speak with a trained health resource consultant 24/7, call 866-966-1020 or use the Real Warriors Live Chat. You can also visit their “Seek Help, Find Care” page at <http://www.realwarriors.net/seek-help.php> to see a list of key psychological health resources.

Middle Finger Origin.

Before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, the French, anticipating victory over the English, proposed to cut off the middle finger of all captured English soldiers. Without the middle finger it would be impossible to draw the renowned English longbow and therefore they would be incapable of fighting in the future. This famous English longbow was made of the native English Yew tree, and the act of drawing the longbow was known as 'plucking the yew' (or 'pluck yew'). Much to the bewilderment of the French, the English won a major upset and began mocking the French by waving their middle fingers at the defeated French, saying, See, we can still pluck yew! Since 'pluck yew' is rather difficult to say, the difficult consonant cluster at the beginning has gradually changed to a labiodentals fricative F', and thus the words often used in conjunction with the one-finger-salute! It is also because of the pheasant feathers on the arrows used with the longbow that the symbolic gesture is known as 'giving the bird.'

Bataan Death March - 75th Anniversary

On April 9, 1942, U.S. forces in the Philippines surrendered to the Japanese, and so began what we call the Bataan Death March today. After the surrender, 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were taken captive by Japanese soldiers and forced to march throughout the Philippines to confinement camps. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of the Bataan Death March and the devastation survivors and the fallen endured during, here are a few facts you need to know.

1. 140 miles to Camp O'Donnell -- U.S. and Filipino soldiers surrendered to the Japanese were more than just POWs, they were captives of the Japanese. Forced to march six excruciatingly long days in the hot sun with no shade, clean water and a scarce amount of food, many became victims of mistreatment, starvation and illness. Soldiers reportedly marched anywhere from 65 to 140 miles to confinement at Camp O'Donnell, where they

were forced to work under harsh conditions with a lack of medical treatment and nourishment. During the march, soldiers were placed into box cars in San Fernando. After a few hours, they stopped, but not at their destination. The soldiers were forced to walk several more miles to camp. However, not all captured men were 'privileged' to stand cramped shoulder-to-shoulder in the hot cars, but instead forced to finish the trek on foot because there wasn't enough room.

2. Fort Drum (Philippines): Two days of mistreatment -- Soldiers surrendered over to the Japanese were all mistreated. They were shot, beaten, beheaded, buried alive and given "sun treatments." Fort Drum soldiers in particular were given two days of mistreatment following the U.S. surrender because it was reported that Americans defending Fort Drum were responsible for killing a large number of Japanese soldiers when they dropped a 14-inch shell, killing a high-ranking Japanese soldier according to the Office of the Provost Marshal General Report in November 1945. For two long days, Fort Drum soldiers were not authorized to lay down, sleep, eat or drink any water.

3. Buried alive -- Through the march, several soldiers became weak from lack of food and clean water. Many soldiers fell out of line and were shot or bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers. Some were reported to have been run over. Some soldiers who fell out or became too slow due to sickness were buried alive. Japanese soldiers made those captured bury their fellow comrades. It has been reported that the only decent thing the Japanese did was take the dog tags from the dead and throw them on the side of the road before burial, even if it was to keep the U.S. from identifying the dead.

4. The march was not one long line -- While 75,000 soldiers were surrendered over to the Japanese, not all started the march at the same time. "We weren't one close-knit group by any means. When the Japanese got a bunch together, say one hundred or so, that group would start walking. You might get the impression it was one long line, but it wasn't. One group would start and then a couple of days later, another one came along. When we got to our destination, Camp O'Donnell, soldiers kept coming in. For how long or how many had passed before and after us, I don't know. On the sixth day, we got to Balanga and were fed a second rice ball. From Balanga, we walked to San Fernando," www.bataansurvivor.com recorded a survivor saying.

5. Soldiers were not the only victims -- Often, local Filipinos along the route would try and offer food to the malnourished soldiers marching by. They would try to give them food or water, but the Japanese soldiers would shoot them as soon as they noticed. One Filipino man was reportedly beheaded and women were raped and mutilated. Filipino women who worked as nurses in the local field hospitals were imprisoned, as well.

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Pending Calendar

2017 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 5-7, 2017 at the Town Center Marriott, 200 Lee St E, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. Tel: 304-345-6500 Herbert J. Thomas Detachment 957 will be the host detachment. Rooms rate : \$109.00 plus tax, Reservation Code - **Marine Corps League**. banquet : \$28.00 Free breakfast and parking. Reservations can be made after Feb 1. Ad book will be available.

2017 Department of Delaware Convention and election of officers will take place on Saturday, 13 May 2017. 10:00 to 14:00. Heritage Shores Country Club, 1 Heritage Shore Lane, Bridgeville, DE. Note to all - The Club is located on US 13 near the intersection of DE Rt. 404 and US 13. 1 hour north of Ocean City and 40 minutes south of Dover, DE.

2017 Department of Maryland Department Convention will be May 11-14, 2017 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. 1-800-4 ROYALE, (1-410-524-7777) Ocean-view/Pool-view. Ocean Front: Includes free continental breakfast.

2017 Department of Virginia Department Convention will be May 12-13, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Express, 107 S. Carter Road, Ashland, Virginia 23005. Room price - \$89 plus tax 804-752-7889 for reservations.

2017 Department of North Carolina Convention will be June 2 - 4, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Durham Airport, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, NC 27703 (919) 941-6000 Rate: \$99.00 plus tax. Rate includes breakfast for up to 2 people per day. Rooms must be reserved by May 27, 2017 to obtain the stated rate Reservation Link: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RDUDADT-MSM-20170601/index.jhtml>. Contact James Cox at ncmclpaymaster@yahoo.com or (919) 604-7363

2017 Mideast Division Conference will be June 23-25, 2017 hosted by Department of North Carolina at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, North Carolina, 27703. Tel +1-919-941-6000 after May 17, 2016. for reservations. Room rate: \$99.00 plus room tax. Free breakfast and parking.

2017 MCL National Convention will be August 13 - 18, 2017 at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Book By Phone: 1-866-837-4214 Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi. The 2017 National Convention website is: www.2017mclnationalconvention.com. You can check there for information and activities available for the convention.

2017 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sep 19 - 21, 2017 at MCB, Quantico, VA.

2018 MCL National Convention will be August 2018 at the Buffalo Hyatt, Two Fountains Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202. Phone: (716) 856-1234. Reservations open 0801 20

August 2017. Buffalo.hyatt.com . Room price \$113 for one and \$130 for 2 people plus room tax.. Free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike McLain
NVC
Mideast Division