



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 4561

Glen Allen, VA 23058-4561

March 2018



**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MEETING**

**Virginia Society of CPA's
4309 Cox Rd, Glen Allen VA
I-64 Exit I78B**

The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month

Next Meeting 24 March 2018

0830 Breakfast - 0900 Meeting

www.richmondmarines.net

(804) 417-4569



Maj Dan Dorchak USAF (USAAC in WWII) Retired was the “fill in” speaker for the March Houston Holicky Sitter Luncheon.

The 93 year old veteran of the Army Air Corps held the groups attention with stories of the China based group that struck the Japanese troops throughout 1943—1945 in southern China and Indo-China.

His descriptions of missions and the unique problems they had to deal with and overcome were a true page of military history most have never known.

(Especially the young Ft. Lee Marines)

Pictured with Major Dorchak :from left to right is: Pfc Pollard, Olivia, Pfc Phan, Kevin, Pfc Smith, Jonathan, Pfc Rose, Nathaniel, Pfc Burton, Wynema, Pfc Hernandez, Rosalinda, Pfc Beall, Joseph, Pfc Philbrick, Mark GySgt Owens, James, 2ndLt Pangan, Princess

The following Paymaster Summary is for Calendar Year 2017.

You, The Marines of Detachment 329 are generous in giving and in your benevolence. We started 2017 with \$5,500.00 in the bank.

Detachment members added \$13,500.00 right out of their own pockets and another \$9,000.00 came from outside sources. That equals about \$28,000.00.

So, "Why do we have to do fund raising?"

Because we spend it!

Last year (2017) our FIXED operating costs were \$10,000.00 and that's not just for Saturday morning Chow!

We returned over \$12,000.00 to civilian, veteran and active duty organizations.

In simple terms we spent a little over 80% of what we took in.

Next months Paymaster Report will have a detailed breakdown of those numbers, fund raising programs planned for this year, and some new events for RECRUITMENT.

Fred Marotta
Paymaster Det 329 of MCL



James M. Slay
Detachment Marine
Corps League

Richmond, Virginia

www.richmondmarines.net

Joe Vass Commandant

Mark Moore
Sr Vice Commandant

- Greg Lee
Jr Vice Commandant
- Greg Cavalli
Adjutant
- Dave Schneider
Judge Advocate
- Jim Ralls
Chaplain
- Jamie Pleasants
Sergeant at Arms
- Fred Marotta
Paymaster
- Spike
Williamson
Quartermaster
- Rich Schollman
Web Sergeant
- Kevin O'Connor
Scuttlebutt Newsletter Editor
oconorsix@verizon.net

The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018



New Corps

As Marines we've always taken great pride in "Improvise, Adapt, Overcome" Especially in the category of equipment. It was understood that we might be stuck with the "hand-me-downs" of the other services. We could do "More with Less". But today's Corps seems to be getting better in this area as this article from Digital Trends.com points out.

Each squad in the Marine Corps will soon have a new member — a quadcopter drone that will be used in everything from training to surveillance to battlefield assaults. The Marines purchased more than 800 drones at the end of 2017 and now they're [rolling out quickly to every squad](#) in the service, according to National Defense magazine. "We never had anything like that even at the company level. It was much higher at the battalion level," said Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh at an industry conference in Washington D.C. "We're getting one for every single squad in the entire Marine Corps."

"They're going fast. We're talking about two hundred a month," he added. Other branches of the service are [experimenting with their own drone](#) programs, as are military forces [in other countries](#). But the full-scale integration of drones down to the squad level is a major development.

Each Marine squad is a 13-man unit, with three separate four-man fire teams headed up by a corporal. The 13th man is the sergeant squad leader. According to DefenseOne, however, some [commanders have found themselves](#) short on manpower, needing extra soldiers to help with the new technology.

Walsh is reportedly considering giving each squad a "tech assistant" to handle training and maintenance for the drones. It's not clear if this will necessitate increasing the size of the squad or merely reassigning duties within existing units.

The drones will be used during field exercises, such as storming a beach, as surveillance tools to scout the terrain and map enemy positions in advance. They will also play an important role in training during downtime as well, with each squad utilizing a "Tactical Decision Kit" to game out various scenarios.

It's all part of a new philosophy called "How an Expeditionary Force Operates in the 21st Century," devised in 2016. It's a high-tech way of preparing soldiers for battle that was devised at the Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms.

The virtual simulations began last year with the Marines' 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "We put the games into the barracks and they really just started gaming," said Walsh. "Then we took it the field, we said, 'Use it with these quadcopters, with the [Hololens](#) in order to map the terrain.'"

For a generation of Marines who grew up playing Xbox and PlayStation, the new program may have some side benefits as well by keeping them engaged and out of trouble. "It was bringing down disciplinary problems in the unit," Walsh said. "Instead of doing other things they're using this to think tactically."

MINUTES
JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
24 FEBRUARY 2018

0900 Call to Order

Opening Ceremony, Securing of Quarters, Posting of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

All Officers were present or accounted for. Absent Junior Vice Greg Lee and Adjutant Greg Cavalli. Bruce Steeley was designated by Commandant Vass to take notes of the meeting.

Applications for New Members

Marine David Jinnette was introduced and advised the membership about his time in the Corps. His application was voted on and was accepted. He then was sworn in by Commandant Vass.

Committee Reports

Honor Guard – Lee Smith:

The Honor Guard will participate at services at the Virginia War Memorial War Memorial and Goochland CH on Memorial Day. Marine Smith read letter of appreciation from Rita Smith thanking them for their participation on a loved one's funeral.

USO – Lee Smith:

Things remain busy at the airport.

VA Hospital – Cecil McNair Construction of parking lot progresses slowly. Advised our member to watch out for scammers outside and not give them any money.

Henrico MCJROTC Programs – Cecil McNair:

21 April Field Meet needs judges at Hermitage HS 11 schools participating. Thanked the detachment for their donations for the meet.

Goochland MCJROTC Program – Joe Wadle: Sen. Warner and Congressman Brat responded. 2 million needed to fund for 33 schools. Schools are being ranked. Goochland 13 out 36 Goochland will fund this year and in the fall.

Range Day – Jim Barrett:

The monthly range days will commence first Monday in April. The range hours are approximately from 0900-1300. Guests are welcome. Those interested are invited to meet at the Goochland Restaurant for breakfast prior to leaving for the range.

Military Order of Devil Dogs – Bruce Steeley: Due to the excused absence of Pound Keeper Lou Siegel, Sr. Vice Pound Keeper Bruce Steeley announced he would conduct a Growl immediately following today's meeting.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon – Joe Wadle: Joe advised of the future speakers at the HHS: March - Colonel John Hoffman speaking on Special Operations in the military.

April – Professor Jim Simms of Hampden Sydney College will speak on Putin and Russia.

Colonel Bill Parrish has contacted the office of Commandant Neller exploring the possibility of him coming down in May and speaking at the HHS Luncheon Group and joining us for a round of Leatherneck Golf.

Virginia War Memorial – Bruce Steeley: Reported that construction on the new addition continues. March has been designated as Women's History Month. The Memorial will be hosting the following events in March.

Sunday, 4 March at 1400 – The Memorial will be hosting a screening of the 1992 movie "A league Of Their Own" at the Byrd Theatre. Afterwards, a panel will discuss the experiences of women during WW2.

Saturday, 17 March at 1000 – K-9 Veterans Day Event. An annual tribute to honor military and working dogs. Trained dogs will be on site demonstrating their skills and training.

Thursday, 29 March at 1800 – A presentation by Professor Renee Garriss on the role that women played during the Vietnam War.

Care Packages – Herb Delbridge:

Has one person he is shipping packages to. He needs names of people to send to. He also advised he is taking reservations for the Purple Heart truck.

Quartermaster – Spike Williamson

Lots of things to sell. Reported he will go to the MCL National Mid-Winter Conference to obtain supplies.

Department of Virginia MCL - Department of Virginia Commandant Jim Barrette reported on the following events:

Department of Virginia Convention will be held in Virginia Beach May 18-20, 2018. Advised that MODD Pups who wish to advance to the degree of Devil Dog by attending Pack Growl.

National Mid-Winter Conference to be held Fredericksburg VA March 1-3, 2018

Mid-East Division Convention to be held in Ellicott City MD on June 15-17, 2018.

National Convention to be held in Buffalo NY August 12-18, 2018.

Newsletter - Kevin O'Connor

Kevin graciously volunteered to continue editing Scuttlebutt newsletter but would like to have someone to take over this duty. Also, Patriots 5 K Run needs corporate sponsors. If you know of someone, please contact Kevin.

Reports of Officers

Commandant – Joe Vass: Advised Marine Bruce Steeley has volunteered to take minutes until election in April.

Senior Vice Commandant – Mark Moore: No report.

Junior Vice Commandant – Greg Lee: Not present

Adjutant – Greg Cavalli: Not present

Paymaster – Fred Marotta:

Reported treasury has an available balance of \$15,333.00.

Treasury balance at beginning of January 2017 was \$8,369.00 and in January 2018 was 15,889.00 for an overall increase 7,520.00.

Down from 40 to 14 members that had been renewed.

Handouts available are now available to recruit new members.

In discussions with Green Top Sporting Goods to set up recruiting booth at an event later this year.

Chaplain – Jim Ralls: Advised Monthly Sick Report was sent out via email.

Reports of Standing Committees

Officer Nominations – Wes Pruitt: Junior Vice Commandant Greg Lee and Sergeant at Arms Jamie Pleasants wished to be replaced. Please contact Wes if interested.

New Business

Bruce Steeley reported on some recommended minor revisions and updates to the Slay Detachment Bylaws. Motion as made to accept these changes and was passed. A copy of new bylaws will be emailed to all members.

Good of the Order

Bruce Steeley introduced Marine Jerald Evans. Marine Evans was one of the founding charter members of the detachment.

Closing

The Colors were retired, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, 24 March 2018 at 0900.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Steeley, Acting Adjutant

Paymaster Fred Marotta

If you attend any of our monthly meetings you have been “exposed” to our energetic and focused Paymaster. He’s organized and very detail oriented. So here’s his story...

I'm so old I lived in the time of draft notices. I got my "Uncle Sam Wants You" letter in the late winter of 1966. So instead of getting the label a draftee I thought I'd enlist in the Navy. That was a No-go, new Navy Recruiter guy on the job, didn't know what to do. So, I walked out of that office, looked up, not to heaven but to a sign that said "MARINES".

I arrived at Parris Island in March of 1966. To this day I cannot put the processes and stages of Boot Camp in their proper sequence. I just kept saying to myself -"There're not going to kill me". I did survive and came out of there a Privileged F***** Character.

We said our good byes to the DI's and were bused directly to Camp Geiger; that was fun. No DI's and we got to play with WW2 era flame throwers, throw pineapples, grenades, fire the M1 Garand and eat C-rations'. We were hardcore Marines after that.

Thanks to that Marine Recruiter back in Boston and passing some extra test on the Island I was on my way to NAS Jacksonville Florida for 22 weeks of avionics school after my "John Wayne" training at Geiger. NAS Jax was SUN- SAND AND GIRLS, sorry 03's, Swing with the Wing.

After that is was on to Marine Air Group 14 at MCAS Cherry Point.

There I was assigned to VMCJ-2, a Photo Recon / Electronic Counter Measures Squadron of RF-4B's and EA-6A's as an Aircraft Electrician. I would spend the next 18 months at Cherry Point before my orders arrive for the land of NAM.

But before traveling to Vietnam, which none of us knew where the hell that was, we had to stop off at a place well known to our "Hollywood" Marines; Camp Pendleton for approx 30 days. What was that like for an E-4 "Airedale" 30 lbs. heavier than boot camp.



Fred and his mother at PI - May 1966



Danang 1969—Airwing uniform?

Well you know the Clint Eastwood character in Heartbreak Ridge "Gunny Highway" well we had one there and I did think I was going to die humping those damn hills, night maneuvers, POW camp training and oh run running in formation at night back to those WW1- WW2 Quonset huts.

Well I did survive and headed west to Okinawa then on to DaNang, South Vietnam for my 13-month tour with VMCJ-1 and MAG-11. That year was well- to say the least "Lost". We didn't lose any one or any aircraft. Ducked a lot of rockets. Had to endure powered eggs and milk after an attack. Drink warm beer until we were allowed to buy fridges for our Hooch's.

Oh yea, we had to ask some sailor outside the PX on Freedom Hill to buy you a bottle booze because some general said Marine E-5's and below were not allowed to drink the hard stuff. Never could figure that one out because we could buy shots at the E-Club-- the life of an Airedale. Marine Corps discharge 1970.

But as they like to say—here's the rest of the story.

In 1990, Fred went to a National Guard family cookout at Byrd Airport. A few beers, a smooth talking First Sgt. and Fred was suddenly a 44 year old E5 in the 986th Air Ambulance Co, National Guard.

Summer Camps at AP Hill, Camp Shelby, MS., Fort Erwin, CA was part of the fun. BUT— rotation to a different Aviation Battalion led to Bolivia, Bosnia and as luck would have it assigned to be part of MAG 16—the Marines had him again. Fred didn't re-up in the Marines because he didn't want to return to Nam. Now he was headed to Iraq until 2007. 60 years old and still being deployed!

Fred retired from the Virginia Army National Guard in 2009 at the age of 62. (Ask Fred about his Article 15 and other misdeeds).

Now you know the rest of the story.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon 10 April 2018 General Richard 'Butch' Neal USMC Ret.

Richard

I. Neal born on June 20, 1942, in Hull, Massachusetts.^[1] He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation in 1965 from [Northeastern University](#), where he received a [B.S. degree](#) in History and Education. He later earned a [Master of Arts](#) degree in Education from [Tulane University](#)^[2] (1973).

Following completion of [The Basic School](#) and subsequently the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at [Fort Sill](#), Oklahoma, Neal was assigned to the [3rd Marine Division](#) in Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a Forward Observer with the [3rd Battalion 9th Marines](#). He returned to Vietnam in January 1970, where he was assigned as an Infantry Battalion Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Upon his return he attended [Amphibious Warfare School](#).

In 1973, he served as the Commanding Officer of the 2d 155 Howitzer Battery, 2d Field Artillery Group at [Camp Lejeune](#), North Carolina. Following a tour as head of the Company Grade Assignment Section at Headquarters Marine Corps, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He served on the Air-Ground Exchange Program as S-3, Marine Aircraft Group 36, on Okinawa. Upon return from overseas, General Neal was assigned as the Head, Operations Division, Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1981.

In 1982, he was selected to attend the [National War College](#) in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of school, he returned to Camp Lejeune to command the [5th Battalion, 10th Marines](#). Neal was promoted to colonel in 1985 and was assigned to the [United States Central Command](#), [MacDill Air Force Base](#), Florida, as the Chief of Policy/Strategy Division and later as the Chief of the Special Projects Division in the J-5 Directorate.

Neal was assigned duty as Director, Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico in August 1988. While serving in this capacity he was selected for promotion to brigadier general in December 1989.

In July 1990, Neal was advanced to brigadier general and assigned duty as the Director, Manpower Plans and Policy Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department. He served in this capacity until May 1992. From September 1990 to April 1991, he was assigned temporary duty as the Deputy for Operations at [U.S. Central Command](#) for [Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm](#).

Neal was assigned as the Deputy Commanding General, II MEF in June 1992. From June 1992 - August 1992, he served as Commanding General, Joint Task Force for Operations GITMO, a humanitarian relief effort for Haitian migrants at [Guantanamo Naval Base](#), Cuba.

Neal was advanced to major general in April 1993, and assigned as the Commanding General of the [2nd Marine Division](#). In August 1994, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander in Chief/Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, and advanced to lieutenant general in October 1994.

Neal was promoted to [four-star rank](#) on September 19, 1996 and assumed duties as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps on September 27, 1996.^[1] He retired on November 1, 1998.

Since retiring from the Marine Corps, Neal has served on various corporate boards and has been associated with intellectual property rights in the private sector and defense-related companies.^[3] He is president of Audio MPEG, a patent licensing company.^[3] He has served on the Board of Directors of Humanetics Corporation, a pharmaceutical company, since January 2006.^[3] Neal is currently the Chairman of the Board of the [Military Officers Association of America](#)^[2] — elected to a two-year term in November 2008, Neal had previously served on the MOAA Board for four years.^[4]



Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.

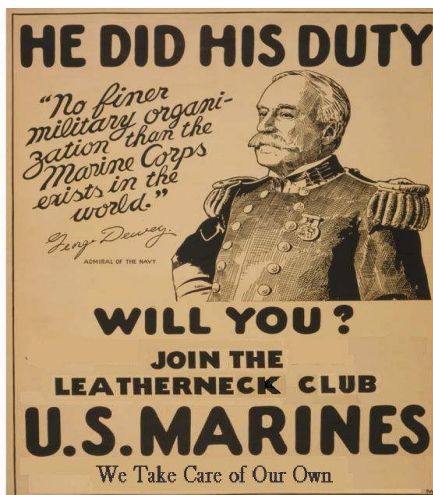


The Holicky-Sitter Luncheon was started to help support the local Active Duty Marines serving in the Richmond Area and Fort Lee. Our goal is the support of the local Marine Reserve Unit, the Marine Detachment at Fort Lee, Marine Corps Recruiters and the Marines assigned to Defense General Supply Center. We are also now taking a very active roll in working with and supporting the families of the wounded from all the services at McGuire Veterans Hospital.

Uniform: Whatever you want to wear.
 Cost: **The chow: Optional from the Publix Deli**
 Date: Tuesday 10 April 2018 (The second Tuesday of every month)
 Speaker: Gen. Richard 'Butch' Neal USMC Ret. (bio page 7)
 Chow: 1130 - Speaker - 1210 - Secure at 1245.
 Where: **"IMPORTANT" Location — Publix (Formerly Martins)**
2250 John Rolfe Parkway, Henrico, VA 23233

2018 LEATHERNECK CLUB

Bill Akers
 Jim Barrett
 John Beall
 Mike Boudreau
 Bob Gilliam
 Tim Godbey
 Clint Harrington
 Bob Hartley
 Phil Hebner
 Houston Holicky Sitter
 Luncheon Group
 Bill Jeffress
 Ed Kemp
 Greg Lee
 Annebel Lewis
 Tom Milhausen



Kevin O'Connor
 John O'Connor
 Wes Pruitt
 Jim Ralls
 David Schneider
 Lou Seigel
 Fred Smith
 Bruce Steeley
 David Taylor
 John Thomas
 Richard VanDamme
 Joe Wadle
 Bill Wagner
 Spike Williamson
 Richard Zimmer

In Memoriam
 Chip Houston Pat O'Hare
 Tom Burton Fred Neurohr



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership/Support for 2018. For a contribution of \$100 you will support our standard monthly donation to: , Virginia Dept. of Veterans and Family Services Project, USMC Wounded Warriors Project, USO Gift Cards in Richmond, and the Slay Det. Ladies Auxiliary.
 Contact Det. Paymaster Fred Marotta at : fredmarotta@gmail.com