



The Scuttlebutt Newsletter

P.O. Box 416

Ashland, VA 23005

October 2020



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

**NOTE: MASKS REQUIRED UPON ENTRY**

**ARRIVE 0800—BREAKFAST 0830 MEETING 0900**

**LAKESWOOD**

**1900 Lauderdale Drive  
Richmond, VA 23238**

**The Fourth Saturday Of Each Month**

**Next Meeting 24 October 2020**

**[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)**

**(804) 417-4569**

## Pay Attention, Marines!

It is just human nature that we all move on to new and more important things. So, when most of us were discharged from the Marine Corps (except perhaps for those who retire) our new priorities might be school, work, family or many other things. I think we tend to not pay much attention to what is happening in The Corps. Depending on our age and when we were in The Corps, the changes are most often out of sight and gradual.



Commandant General David Berger

When I got out in 1969, I left Vietnam on September 1<sup>st</sup> and was back in a college classroom on September 12<sup>th</sup>. I had help getting back from family and previous professors (who probably thought I was crazy to leave for The Corps in the first place). I was oblivious to the major problems of the early 70's enlisted Marines. Racial conflicts that affected society also hit The Corps. Drugs, gangs and on base violence were common. Commandant Cushman stepped down about 6 months early in 1975 with Gen. Louis Wilson coming in with a goal to restore order and discipline. In the first few months, 6,000 Marines were discharged (2,400 from the 2nd MarDiv in 1975 as undesirable). Both the educational and background requirements were enhanced for recruiting.

The new Corps got smarter and more prepared to deploy around the world and to enter the new, different combat in the middle east. They face the challenges of "asymmetrical" warfare in which small simply armed groups attack regular military units restrained by rules of war and the presence of civilians.

But things are changing even faster. New unit forward deployments in the Pacific, new smaller force designs with mobile rocket batteries, the retiring of Harrier Squadrons, the elimination of Marine Corps tanks. There are plans proposed to eliminate Parris Island RD and San Diego RD and consolidate all "Boots", male and female in the same location with greater inter action and training. The Commandant has begun the evaluation and possible revision of 67 Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). Many of the MOS jobs that we had in the Corps may be gone or on the way out.

I suggest the best way to "PAY ATTENTION" to these changes is to subscribe to the Marine Corps Times ([news@marinecorpstimes.com](mailto:news@marinecorpstimes.com))

## Semper Fi



Sgt. Jarrod Simmons speaks to his squad of female Marines before they head out on a training march with 55-pound packs at Camp LeJeune.

**James M. Slay**  
**Detachment Marine**  
**Corps League**

**Richmond, Virginia**

[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)

- **Mark Moore**  
Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**  
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Walter Cornett**  
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Tim Taylor**  
Adjutant
- **Dave Schneider**  
Judge Advocate
- **Lonny Fry** Chaplain
- **Rick Barden**  
Sergeant at Arms
- **Fred Marotta**  
Paymaster
- **Steve Farmer**  
Quartermaster
- **Bob Gilliam**  
Web Sergeant
- **Kevin O'Connor**  
Scuttlebutt Newsletter  
Editor  
[oconorsix@verizon.net](mailto:oconorsix@verizon.net)

# The Scuttlebutt

**NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2020**

**Marines,**



After careful consideration for the Marine Corps Ball and the many requests from the detachment members. The officers and I have decided to have a "Members Only" Ball this year. Due to the COVID restrictions we can accommodate only 56 people at Lakewood Manor. Unfortunately, guests and spouses will not be able to attend this year. We do apologize for any inconvenience but with the restrictions put out by the CDC and our Governor. Lakewood Manor can only do 50 percent of the capacity. However, we can still have a great Marine Corps Ball and celebrate the birth of our beloved Corps.

I spoke to our Senior Vice Commandant, Phil Hebner and he is getting with Joe Wadle about our special guest, Lt, Colonel Shusko. They will work out all the details and get a battle plan in place. I spoke to Jim Barrett about the meal and it will be (buffet style) and consist of filet mignon, salmon, a vegetarian dish, assorted vegetables, salad, and a sheet cake to cut. I have not received a price yet to set the ticket cost, however, I should have that this week. **FORMAL ATTIRE, SUIT AND TIE, RED BLAZER/COVER, MESS DRESS OR DRESS BLUES!** In addition, we will also have a bartender to serve beer and wine. We will sell tickets for the drinks as we did last year. Once I sit down with our Paymaster, Fred Marotta and talk budget and cost. I will let everyone know the ticket price and Fred will send out mailers as we did last year. With the number of attendees this year, confirmation on your attendance will **ONLY** be when Fred receives your money. The Ticket Price will be \$25.00 per member. Please start getting your checks in the mail ASAP, made out to James M. Slay and in the memo write Marine Corps Ball. Mail checks to James M. Slay Det #329 PO Box 416 Ashland VA 23005. **CUT OFF DATE TO ATTEND WILL BE NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

If we reach the magical number "56" before November 1st, I will let everyone know. Any money collected after will be refunded.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT!**

The start time for the event will be 1700 with the CMC Marine Corps Ball message, followed the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps John A. Lejeune message, Detachment Commandant remarks, and then Lt. Colonel Shusko will take the stage for his closing presentation. If you never heard the Colonel speak, you are in for a treat I can assure you. So please make every effort to attend. As everyone is aware, this is also a Toys for Tots event. Please bring an unwrapped toy in the amount not to exceed \$25. We will ensure the toys collected will be delivered to Hotel Battery. Phil will check with Hotel Battery to make sure they are having a Toys for Tots event this year.

I have received a few emails about donating funds for TOYS FOR TOTS instead of attending. If you would like to send a check for toys to be purchased that will be fine as well. I will ensure those funds are allocated to purchase toys for those in need.

That is all for now Marines, there will more details and information to follow. If you have any questions, please email me or contact me at 804-971-3448.

Semper Fi  
 Mark Moore, Commandant

**MINUTES**  
**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**26 SEPTEMBER 2020**



**0900 Call to Order**

Commandant Mark Moore called the meeting to order, ordering the securing of quarters, posting of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer, and directing the Sargent at Arms to declare the meeting Open.

**Roll Call of Officers**

All officers were present except Joe Vass (Past Commandant, excused), and Fred Marotta (Paymaster, excused).

**Introduction of Guests**

Three guests. Tim Francis, Casey Clausen, and Joe Krepp, all Marines requesting to join the Detachment.

**Application for New Members**

All three of the above Marines presented their applications, membership fee, and DD-214 for review. All were eligible and were accepted by a vote of members present. All three were then sworn in by the Commandant and the meeting adjourned for 5 minutes so they could be welcomed by the membership.

**Reports of Officers**

Commandant – Mark Moore

Junior Vice Commandant – Walter Cornett, No report.

Adjutant – Tim Taylor

Requested approval of Minutes published in September Scuttlebutt for the August meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

Announced that due to some lingering financial questions, the issue of the Flagpole for the VA Hospital would be deferred until next meeting.

No financial report this meeting due to the absence of the Paymaster due to a family emergency.

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

Sick Call report sent out yesterday by email. Several members or family members in need of prayers for various afflictions, including Fred Marotta's wife who was rushed to the hospital this morning with a collapsed lung.

Led prayer for the detachment members and family members in distress at this time.

Web Sergeant – Bob Gilliam

Web Page has various forms for donations, membership, etc., along with a great deal of good information, so please check it out.

Historian – Rich Van Damme, No Report at this time.

Legislative Report – Jim Barrett, Nothing new in the legislative arena currently.

**Senior Vice Commandant – Phil Hebner - Committee Reports**

Honor Guard – Spike Williamson

Since the last meeting through today, we have done 6 funerals; Year to date there have been 45 funerals, 3 ceremonies, and 2 other events; since the beginning in 2013 there have been 288 funerals, 55 ceremonies, and 28 other events in which the Honor Guard has participated.

We need more volunteers to be members of the Honor Guard.

USO – Lee Smith

No Report. The Airport USO has still not reopened.

Range Day – Jim Barrett

Rifle competition will be held on 5 October and Pistol competition on 12 October. On each day, we will meet at the Exxon station at exit 167 on I64 at 9:15AM, then move over to the range for the competition.

Maguire VA Hospital – Hallie Oxley, Jr.

Still no volunteers allowed in the Hospital due to the Virus restrictions.

Have a meeting scheduled this Tuesday, 29 Sept with the Public Relations officer for the Hospital to find out what their plans are moving forward.

Christy, the Volunteer Services Coordinator will be at our next meeting to speak about volunteering at the VA and will provide a 30-minute training after the meeting for those who anticipate volunteering within the next 12 months.

JROTC – Jerry Howard

Thanks for the Scholarship SOP.

Met with all of the C.O.s this month and they are still all conducting virtual instruction, but the Marine Corps has provided them with virtual activities to help keep morale and interest up until they can get back to in person instruction.

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Joe Wadle

Luncheons still on hold until January.

Marine Maj Gen in charge of USMC Recruiting will be the speaker in March.

Col Bob Muscount will speak in February. He is highly involved with the State level COVID-19 activities and actions in Virginia.

This detachment had a major impact on the Golf Tournament for the support of the Families of the Wounded organization, raising the most money of any group involved.

There will be another golf tournament on Veteran's Day, also for the Families of the Wounded at Birkdale with an 11:00 am tee time – same format and procedure as the last tournament.

**Military Order of Devil Dogs – Jim Barrett**

There will be a Devil Dog Growl at Lakewood on 21 November.

There will be a Devil Dog Growl on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at the Department Fall Staff meeting to advance several Pups.

**Virginia War Memorial – Bruce Steeley**

The War Memorial is again open on a limited basis.

They will be having the Veterans Day ceremony outside at 11 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, as well as the Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Fund Raising Committee – Jim Ralls**

No one has submitted any ideas for fund raising recently. The committee does not come up with the ideas, but rather support and assist with the fund-raising efforts of the detachment.

Question was asked about how much was made on the rifle/piston raffle in the last meeting -\$660, then member offered to donate a M1911A1 for raffle at the January meeting. Fund Raising committee to develop plan for same.

**Quartermaster – Steve Farmer**

The website [JamesMSlay.itemorder.com](http://JamesMSlay.itemorder.com) has shirts, jackets, etc., for Det 329. The detachment gets a cut of the price on each item sold.

We have two NCO swords (used, excellent condition) available for \$200 each and one new Mameluke sword available at \$250. Swagger sticks available for \$35.

**Past State Commandant – Jim Barrett**

Department Fall Staff meeting on 16-17 October at the Holiday Inn, Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach.

National Mid-Winter Conference at Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk on the 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.

Marine of the Year is coming up so if you have any suggestions for recipients, fill out the form on the Website and send to me by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Award will be presented at the Birthday Ball/Toys for Tots Dinner.

**New Business**

Location of the Marine Corps Ball: Limited to 56 persons in the Lakeland facility. Ball can be held at Lakeland with limited participation or can find another venue with more space. Several possible venues were discussed, but any members who have ideas on this, notify Commandant by email as he will be investigating possible venues. Deadline for notifying your participation for the November 7 Ball will be the October 24 meeting.

Proposal to donate \$100 to the Goochland American Legion for the three meetings we used their facility was accepted.

**Good of the league**

Several Marines presented with membership certificates and Congressional Certificates for participation in the Vietnam War.

**Announcements**

Golf outing at Federal Club on Marine Corps Birthday, November 10.

Will be responding to the National MCL Commandant challenge to do 22 push-ups in support of Veteran suicide awareness immediately after the meeting. We will be calling out the Department of New Jersey Commandant with the video of our members doing 22 push-ups.

**Closing Ceremony**

By order of the Commandant, the Colors were retired, the Marine Corps Hymn was sung, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Timothy Taylor, Adjutant



## Defense Spending      Answering The Critics

### This Is Not Your Parents' Military. We Can't Fund It the Same Way

Critics of defense spending often compare current spending levels with previous budgets, adjusted for inflation, to argue that today's amounts are irresponsibly high. They then argue that other federal programs should get more funding—at the expense of defense, of course—because Americans would be better served by domestic programs that help individuals. These arguments are tragically misinformed, at best.

Comparing a dollar spent on the Vietnam-era military with a dollar spent on today's military fails to account for the extraordinary changes in military affairs over the intervening half-century—not only in technology, but also in the cost of talent and expectations for how we treat those in uniform. With the exception of the venerable M2 Browning .50-caliber heavy machine gun, introduced in 1933, every piece of weaponry, equipment, and platforms has become more complex, more lethal, and more capable. It is naive to think that one can blindly compare past and present defense investments simply by accounting for inflation and completely ignoring the impact that technologies have had on the conduct of military affairs.

At its most fundamental, war is a competition, with each side fielding capabilities that give it a temporary advantage. Just because you decide to stop at a particular level of capability or capacity doesn't mean your competitor will stop at that same level. In fact, they are incentivized to continue so as to assure dominance. It's the nature of human competition.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, inflation has raised the value of a 1970 dollar to \$6.64. How does this apply to the world of military competition? Not very well at all. Some examples:

Personnel: Let's start with the basic enlisted man or woman and a freshly minted officer. In 1970, the monthly basic pay of an E-1 private was \$133.20 per month (\$879 in 2020 dollars). A new second lieutenant earned \$417.60 (or \$2,756 adjusted). Today, their counterparts make \$1,681 and \$3,287—double the rate of inflation for the enlisted and 15 percent more for the officer. And this doesn't include the additional costs of better living quarters, education benefits, healthcare, retirement benefits, nutritional advances in dining facilities, and improved training. At least part of this relates to the transition to the All Volunteer Force, a fundamental change that requires the military to compete for talent in the marketplace.

Aircraft: A new production model F-4 Phantom II fighter cost \$3.5 million in 1972, \$23.1 million at today's rate. Today, a production model F-35A costs \$78 million, more than three times the rate of inflation. This is not an outlier. A new F/A-18E is \$75 million fully equipped for war—still three times the price of an F-4, but less able to survive in modern air combat than the F-35.

Ships: A Spruance-class destroyer cost \$92 million in 1970 (\$610 million adjusted for inflation) while its counterpart in 2020, an Arleigh Burke, runs \$1.9 billion, again more than triple the rate of inflation. Armor: America's main battle tank in the 1970s was the M60A1 Patton, acquired for a cool \$298,000 in 1974, or \$2 million in 2020 dollars. Today, we are equipping our Army with the M1A2C Abrams. It carries an active protection system to defeat modern anti-armor weapons, dramatically improved armor, and a digital and communications suite up to the challenge of modern computers, sensors, data sharing, and employment of programmable ammunition. All this comes at a cost of \$9.6 million—nearly five times the rate of inflation.

Equipping the average soldier: In World War II, the Army spent \$170 to equip a soldier, (the figures here are in 2006 dollars). By the 1970s, the cost had risen to \$1,100. In 2007, the figure had increased to \$17,500 (16 times the cost, even when adjusted for inflation), and the Army estimated that it would more than double, perhaps quadruple, over the next decade. Survival and success comes from not only being smart, well-trained, and physically fit but also having better body armor, a better weapon, improved optics and sensors, and a dramatically better ability to share information. Winning in combat at amazingly lower levels of casualties comes with a price tag. The mortality rate during World War II was 2.5 percent and in Vietnam, 0.67 percent. By 2006, rates had dropped to 0.25 percent, due in part to advances in medical care but also to the equipment, communications, training, and modern transport that accompanies our soldiers to the field.

Continued next page....

## Defense Spending Continued....

In 1970, the defense budget was \$78.5 billion; adjusting for inflation, this equates to \$521 billion today. The 2020 Defense budget is \$713 billion, 27 percent higher than that of 1970. While the overall budget has indeed grown in real terms, the important question is whether it has kept pace with the price of the people and hardware essential to success in war. The cost of manpower has increased by 200 percent. Our sample of combat aircraft shows an increase of 300 percent while the Navy's primary surface combatant has more than tripled in cost. The cost of armor has grown 500 percent while the price to ensure the basic infantryman is able to succeed in battle has skyrocketed 1,600 percent. It is hard to see how a 27 percent increase in overall funding adequately supports the measures needed to prevail in combat over an enemy that is also leveraging the advances of modern technology.

In addition to all of the above, today's military must also account for things that didn't exist in previous eras: robotics and unmanned systems, directed energy, cyber, hypervelocity projectiles and weapons, artificial intelligence, instantaneous high-bandwidth and data-rich global telecommunications, space-based assets, extraordinarily capable sensors and guidance systems, and sophisticated warhead designs.

Vietnam-era items would not survive against their modern counterparts. It would be irresponsible—indeed, immoral—to demand that our men and women go to war today equipped, trained, and supported as if this were 1970.

Proponents of slashing defense spending on the premise that what we spend today should be bound by what we spent in a bygone era betray the obligation we have to ensure those we send into harm's way are ready for the task in the modern era against opponents as well-equipped as our forces.

Let's not presume that defense of the country can be had on the cheap or that our military can do the job we ask of them with vintage equipment, funding, and support. It is true that some of those calling for cuts to military spending are also calling for the military to do less. But this also presumes the world—our major competitors in particular—will accommodate such a decision by not pressing a new-found advantage over a weaker America. If critics really want to see a smaller and less capable U.S. military, they at least need to be honest about the consequences.

(From— Defense One.com)

### Parris Island S.C.

WASHINGTON — Three lawmakers from South Carolina introduced legislation Friday to stop the Marine Corps from potentially closing its recruiting depot at Parris Island, S.C., in order to train new troops in a co-ed environment at another location.

"I do not support and will never support closing Parris Island," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said in the prepared statement issued Friday.

The House bill, the Parris Island Protection Act, follows comments made by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger on Sept. 24 about the service considering a third training location due to lack of facilities for women at its two boot camps — the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. The bill would "prohibit the use of federal funds to close or realign" Parris Island, according to the joint statement.

Graham will also introduce a similar bill in the Senate, according to the statement.



## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.



The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans' lunch group is an informal forum for veterans of all branches of the armed forces. Col. Joseph J. Holicky, Jr. (USMC, ret.) and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Col. Carl L. Sitter (USMC, ret.) began having lunch together in the mid 1970's following their retirements. Over the years other veterans and local active duty Marines joined them for lunch. In the early 1980's Lt. Col. L.W. "Chip" Houston (USMCR, ret.) became part of the leadership team and served as its Master of Ceremonies for over 25 years. Today nearly 100 veterans meet each month to carry on the HHS tradition and to hear prominent guest speakers address military history, national security issues, and other topics of interest to veterans.

HHS is apolitical, and promotion of political interests is prohibited. HHS is a not-for-profit group, but it is neither a 501c3 nor a 501c4 organization.

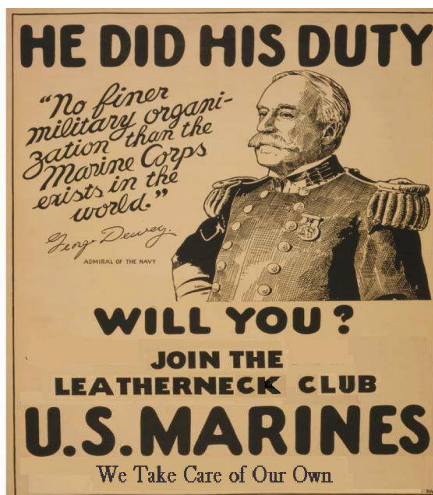
Quartermaster Store Link:

<https://jamesmslay.itemorder.com/sale>

**HHS luncheons through the end of the year have been cancelled. Four-star Admiral Chris Brady from Norfolk will be the speaker in January. We also have the Commander of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command ( 2-Star) set up for one of the luncheons in the first half of the year after we restart.**

## 2020 LEATHERNECK

- Bill Akers
- Jim Barrett
- John Beall
- Mike Boudreau
- Herb Delbridge
- Kimo Caprara
- Ron Echols
- Lonny Fry
- John Clickener
- Phillip Gee
- Bob Gilliam
- Tim Godbey
- Clint Harrington
- Bob Hartley
- Phil Hebner
- Susan Houston
- Houston Holicky Sitter Luncheon Group
- Bill Jeffress
- Ed Kemp
- Greg Lee
- Fred Marotta



- Tom Mraz
- Tom Milhausen
- Kevin O'Connor
- John O'Connor
- Carl Panebianco
- Jim Ralls
- Bruce Russell
- David Schneider
- Lou Seigel
- Charlie Slay
- Bruce Steeley
- David Taylor
- Tim Taylor
- John Thomas
- Richard VanDamme
- Ken Vardell
- Joe Wadle
- Bill Wagner
- Joe Washington
- Jerry Wells
- Spike Williamson
- Richard Zimmer

In Memoriam  
 Chip Houston Pat O'Hare  
 Bill Lyell Buddy Smith



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2020. Your \$100 annual membership fee supports the activities and efforts of the James M. Slay Detachment, a not-for-profit 501c4 Veteran's Service Organization. Contact Detachment Paymaster Fred Marotta at: [Paymaster329@gmail.com](mailto:Paymaster329@gmail.com)