

Semper Fi News

For Marines and FMF Corpsman of the Greater Ogden Area

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 1, 2007



Detachment Officers

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We Need Your Help!

Yes! We need YOUR help. We have several loose ends in the detachment being held together by a loose-nut, me. Our detachment finished off the year with the Toys for Tots Campaign. We only had 5 members of your detachment involved in this very worthwhile program. While it's true, we all can't do everything, we all can do something! We were successful in our Toys for Tots program (see last months newsletter), but we were lucky and would not have been so successful were it not for the help of many other groups.

We also have several committees that need members. Examples of such: Our detachment is hosting the Department Convention this year in June. We have absolutely

no members in the committee. We do have a couple of people who volunteered to look into a site to hold the convention, but we need people to get this off the ground.

Last month and in November I published some of the programs we, as a detachment, can do. I also asked for some input of ideas of things we can do. To date, I have received nothing.

I started publishing this newsletter, because Joe Surace was tied up with several other things in his own area of responsibility as Department Commandant and other groups he belongs to. I have asked for help with it and input. I have had nothing in response. As you can tell, I like to talk, but even I can run out of things to say and I don't want to make this my gripe letter or column. Marines, this is our newsletter, let's hear from you and get our detach-

ment moving to be the great detachment it can be.

While I'm at it,. Elections will be coming up in a couple of months. Let's get together and get some vitality into our meetings and organization.

MEETING TIME

This month's meeting will be Wednesday, February 21 at the American Legion Post 134, 345 South Depot St, in Clearfield.

Got News?

Any Information for this newsletter? Mail it to me: Ben Setter, 3848 Prestwick Dr., Syracuse, UT 84075. Email it to me at: ben_setter@ogdenmarines.org. or you can fax it to me at (801)773-7145.

Utah State Veteran's Benefits

Veteran's Benefits in Utah: it's always a good idea to check benefits now and then to see if there is anything new or no longer valid.

If one of these items catches your eye, contact the Utah State Office of Veteran's Affairs for more information. Their number is

Toll Free- 800 894-9497
(801) 326-2372
Fax (801) 326-2369
550 Foothill Blvd. #202
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
Terry Schow, Director
Email: berni.davis@va.gov
or go to the following website: www.veterans.utah.gov

/statebenefits/index.html.

- Utah Veteran Housing and Tax Programs. This includes Property Tax Abatement and Valor House for transitional housing to homeless vets.
- Utah Veteran Employment Programs.

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Rocky Mountain Division Conference

Information on the 2007 Rocky Mountain Division, MCL Conference is now available for download on the Rocky Mountain Division Web site. www.mcleaguerckymntdiv.org. Please inform your Officers and detachments that it is available. If you are planning to attend, hotel reservations need to be made by 25 June, 2007. When you are calling for hotel reservations please state that you are with the Marine Corps League

Veteran's Benefits

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This includes Veterans Job Representatives, Veterans Job Preference and Veterans Hiring Priority.

- Utah Veteran Education Assistance Programs. To include Veterans Upward Bound and Tuition waiver for Purple Heart Recipients.
- Drivers License Privileges
- Veterans License Plates
- Disabled License Plates
- Disabled Parking Privileges
- Utah State Veterans Nursing Home.
- Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park
- Free Use of Amories
- Fishing License Privileges
- Special Fun Tags
- Bus / Trax Reduced Fare Cards
- Golden Access Passport
- Community –Based Outpatient Clinics
- Veterans Administration Regional Office
- VA Hospital
- Vet Centers
- Homeless Veterans Fellowship
- Outreach Services

Detachment Officer Duties

With detachment elections coming up in a few months. It might be a good time to describe the duties of each officer. You might find something interesting and want to run for that office. The position descriptions are taken from the Marine Corps League Officer's Guide Book. This will be the first installment of several articles concerning Officer's Duties.

COMMANDANT

The Detachment Commandant is the most important office in the Marine Corps League. This leadership position accounts for the membership levels, programs, and the manner in which the League is viewed by Marines, members, prospective members, and the citizens of the community. With effective leadership in this office, the Detachment and the entire League will be successful. Success and achievement begets recognition, and a growing membership.

Characteristics and Traits

- ⇒ Proven leadership and management skills.
- ⇒ Effective communication skills with members, the community and other organizations.
- ⇒ Ability to establish mutually agreed upon objectives, plan and direct, and articulate and promote strategies within sphere of influence.
- ⇒ Ability to recognize and solve problems.
- ⇒ Willingness to delegate tasks and responsibilities, while controlling and managing results.
- ⇒ Clear understanding of financial and fiscal requirements.
- ⇒ Effective speaking capability for ceremonies, meetings, presentations, and for fund raising.
- ⇒ Experience and/or clear understanding of subordinate Officer duties and their responsibilities.
- ⇒ Flexible thinking — acceptance of dissent in discussion and plans.

- ⇒ Ability to run concise, effective meetings.
- ⇒ Commitment to training, education and support to improve Detachment skill levels.
- ⇒ Selfless approach to meeting Detachment objectives.
- ⇒ Commitment to the purposes of the league, and objectives of the Detachment.
- ⇒ Ability to lead and work as a team.

Narrative of Job Account ability and Responsibilities

Leadership – The first and foremost job of the Commandant is to LEAD. In doing so, he/she sets an example for other Officers and the Detachment members. Leading also requires that tasks and accountabilities (along with authority) be delegated to subordinate Offices and members; however, the ultimate responsibility for accountabilities still rests with the Commandant. In leading, it is important to continually assess results, and assist/support subordinates in removing obstacles to completing their delegated tasks.

Preside At Meetings – The Commandant should be reasonably well versed in Robert's Rules of Order and the Ritual of the Marine Corps League for conducting a meeting. Meetings should be concise and orderly, and allow relevant information to be presented reflecting different points of view. The Commandant must control the meeting with the assistance of the Sergeant-at-Arms. The manner in which the meetings are run will have a significant impact on attendance, participation, and promoting Detachment objectives.

The Commandant is also called on to chair Officer Meetings in addition to general membership meetings. The meeting results are directly proportionate to the focus of the topics, control, timeliness, and decisions relative to views presented. An agenda is helpful for meetings, which should be developed and/or approved by the

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Officers's Duties (from page 2)

Commandant. During the business portion of the meeting, it is important to focus on business, though a little humor can keep matters in perspective.

Chief Executive Officer of The Detachment – As an Incorporated entity within the State, the Commandant is the CEO of the Board of Trustees and the Detachment. As such, he/she is responsible, as a Corporate Officer, for the activities, financial standings, and the image portrayed in the Community and the League.

Positive Public Relations – The Commandant is the primary contact and promoter of Detachment events and Community/Marine Corps League activities. Public Relations include direct meetings, media contact, and appearances at appropriate civic and military events. The leader of an organization, by virtue of his/her position, will be the primary provider of information, the primary representative of the Detachment at functions, and the primary salesman for the League and the Detachment.

Formulation and Development of Programs – Just as a newly elected President has ideas and programs that he/she promotes to get elected, so too should the Commandant have ideas and programs that will improve Detachment operations, and enhance the capabilities/results of achieving goals. Also, just as a President needs to sell the ideas to Congress, and compromise where appropriate to achieve the best program for all constituents, so too, the Commandant must articulate, sell and compromise where appropriate, promote programs and objectives with Detachment members and the Board of Trustees.

The most important element of achieving this task is developing a written plan/strategy for each program and idea, discussing the merits, and weaknesses, and agreeing on a directions to pursue.

Appointment of Committees To Carry Out Detachment Business – There are a few reasons to appoint a committee:

- ⇒ To bring together varied skills and perspectives to study/solve a problem or evaluate an idea.
- ⇒ To plan, initiate, and accomplish a given task or program; and to involve members in a legitimate activity who might otherwise not volunteer.

When setting up a committee, it is important to determine if the purpose clearly needs a committee or can a situation be handled by making one individual accountable. Make sure a committee is not formed to delay action on solving a problem. Define the results expected of the committee, and establish a STARTING and ENDING date, at which time the committee will be dissolved.

Financial Responsibility – The financial well being of the Detachment is a significant target for the Commandant and his/her staff. The first concern is for the financial integrity and credibility of the Detachment – the proper channeling and use of funds are generated for a charitable purpose, they must be used for that purpose). The Commandant is ultimately responsible for the finances of the Detachment. The integrity, image, membership level and ability to support events are often directly proportionate to the size of the treasury and the way in which it is managed. The commandant needs to understand sources of revenues, expense control, cash flow, profit and loss and how to do an audit of the detachment financial records. The commandant should be one of two signers on the Detachment checking account (the other being the Paymaster).

Bylaws and Policies of the Marine Corps League – The Commandant should become acquainted with the National Bylaws of the Marine Corps League, the Department and the Detachment. This will give him/her a complete working knowledge of the requirements of the office they hold. Bylaws and Policies of the League, Department and Detachment are the guiding principles under which the organization operates. The Commandant is ultimately held accountable for adherence to the Bylaws and policies and therefore must assure that the Detachment and its members are in

Awards – The Detachment Commandant has the authority and the opportunity to recognize members, non-member citizens of the Community and Companies for service and achievements in support of the Detachment/League objectives. The distinguished Service Medal; the Distinguished Service Certificate; the Distinguished citizenship Medal; the Certificate of Appreciation, and other awards are ways to acknowledge support, performance, citizenship and patriotism. The Commandant may want the input of the Detachment Staff or of an awards committee or may act on their own to show appreciation for support and achievement.

Summary – The Detachment Commandant's position is critical to the success of the Detachment and the Marine Corps League. The ability to LEAD will be decisive to the success of the Detachment. The ability to DELEGATE and MONITOR results will be crucial to time management – getting things accomplished through others and achieving desired results. To effectively promote the Detachment and the League will develop a POSITIVE IMAGE and ATTRACT new members.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

The Senior Vice commandant (SVC) is second in command of the Detachment. This Officer should be a logical successor to the Commandant, and is therefore required to be fully familiar with the Commandant functions through his/her term of office. Many of the duties described below are the same or similar to those of the Commandant. The SVC should be familiar with the duties of the Commandant, and be prepared to be the senior chairperson for projects/committees deemed important by the Commandant. As second in command, the SVC's roles are critical to the Detachment in terms of Officer support, and in accepting major responsibilities for meeting Detachment objectives.

Assistance and Support to the Commandant – In many respects, depending on the size and number of activities of the Detachment, the relationship between the Commandant and the SVC is a team effort. IT is helpful when the two Officers' positions have complementary skills that

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Officers Duties

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Can be shared in achieving the Detachments goals and in administering the affairs of the unit. One objective of the SVC position is one of preparation for the office of Commandant. In achieving that objective, it is important for the SVC to be integrally involved in all the affairs of the Detachment, and to take on specific tasks as assigned by the Commandant.

Presides In Absence Of The Commandant-

Being second in command, the SVC will be called upon to perform on behalf of the Commandant when the Commandant is unable to preside at meetings, or attend events. For this reason, it is important that the SVC be current on issues, procedures, objectives and requirements normally handled by the Commandant. The SVC should be able to step into the Commandant's roll with minimum difficulty or disruption. Some of the roles of the SVC may be called upon to perform include, presiding at Detachment general meetings and Officer Meetings. The SVC should be familiar with the requirement of the Commandant in these areas, and be able to effectively use Robert's Rules of Order, other parliamentary procedure, and the Marine Corps League Ritual. In addition, the SVC may be called upon to deliver presentations or meet with other contacts that are handled by the Commandant. The SVC must be prepared to meet contingencies that arise in the absence of the Commandant

Other – Additional duties of the SVC may include:

- ⇒ Training of Detachment Officers and project committee chairpersons
- ⇒ Assistance and support to Detachment Officers in meeting their specific objectives.
- ⇒ Assimilating Detachment reports on operations, finances, and project results for presentation to other Officers and members.
- ⇒ Preparation to succeed the Commandant at the expiration of his/her term of office, if he/she wishes.

Summary – The SVC's position is important to the Detachment for three general reasons: to assist and support the Commandant, to prepare for succession to the Commandant's office, and to back up the Commandant when absent. The SVC should be a major contributing force to the success of the Detachment. He/she should provide knowledge and influence in assuring the achievement of Detachment goals and operations.

Next month's issue will have the duties and responsibilities of Junior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Junior Past Commandant, Adjutant.

The April issue will contain duties of the Paymaster, Sergeant at Arms, and Chaplain. Duties of other staff and Project Officers (should we become large enough to have them) will be published throughout the year.

New Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Story from Marine Corps League Website



Commandant Gen. James Conway, of the Marine Corps, has announced that Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent will be the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

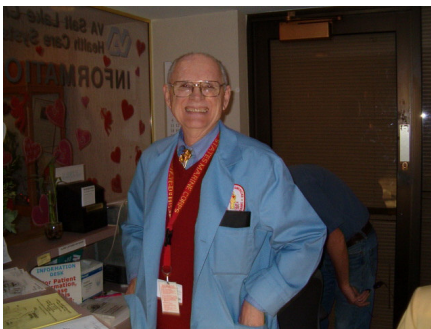
The announcement was made from Camp Pendleton, Calif. Sgt. Maj. Kent will replace Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, who has held the Corps' top enlisted position since June 2003.

"The Sergeant Major is 'known quantity' to Conway because he has been I MEF's senior enlisted Marine since Conway commanded that unit in Iraq in 2004.", said Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Thompson, who served above Kent as Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

Cartoonist Needed

Are any of you Marines a cartoonist? We could use a little humor on these dry pages. Email or snail mail them to me and I'll make sure they get published in this widely published newsletter (distribution at this time about 60). Gee, I'll even give you a by-line for it. It would be nice to see another name besides mine. Ben

George E. Wahlen VA Regional Hospital Looking For a Few Good Men



MCL Department of Utah Commandant Joseph PC Surace

VA Hospital Volunteer and our Department of Utah Commandant Joseph PC Surace is still looking for volunteers to help out at the VA Regional Hospital in Salt Lake City. He has been a volunteer there for at least once a week for several years. Volunteers fill an important need at the hospital. They reduce staffing costs, helping the VA keep the health care costs down for each veteran served. Joe is seen in the accom-

panying photo manning the information desk at the main entrance to the hospital. As most of you know, Joe edited and printed the detachment newsletter in the past and made several requests for help. Like so many other volunteer programs, it only takes a few hours a month and you know that your time was well spent. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the hospital please call: (801) 584-1241

Iwo Jima Remembered

February 23rd marks the 62nd anniversary of Five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

Within the past few months, 2 movies about Iwo Jima have been released, "*Flags of Our Fathers*" and "*Letters From Iwo Jima*". Both have received outstanding reviews. If you have not yet seen these movies, I suggest you do it as soon as possible.

Semper Fi,
Jerry Shaffer

Founder & Director of Leatherneck.com

Silent Members

.Let's hear from you. We moved our meetings back to the 3rd Wednesday of the month and back to the American Legion building in Clearfield. Because there were complaints that the Golden Coral was too inconvenient for those members who attended in the past. January's meeting had only our newest member, Cory Lingelbach and me in attendance. What happened? Ben Setter.

Short Rounds

This space will be reserved for short little tid-bits of information you might want to share with the rest of us. If you have something to share. Send me a note. We want to hear from you. Ben

Under the "better late than never," heading, we would like to extend congratulations to our Commandant, Chris Knowlden and his wife, Heather on the birth of their baby girl--9 Lbs. 21.25" long. She was born 24 September 2006.

rolled in VA care to get in shape and also offers information to family members and anyone trying to lose weight at www.move.va.gov where a questionnaire helps identify personal barriers to weight control. The questions link to about 100 informational materials on the site. VA started MOVE! to encourage veterans to increase their physical activity and improve their nutrition.

New Detachment Directory

Beginning this month we will be publishing a detachment directory. The directory will have each members name, address, telephone number and email address, if they have submitted one. The directory will **ONLY** be passed out at each meeting and only to currently paid members. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR INFORMATION PUBLISHED PLEASE CONTACT ME AT (801) 525.0147. Ben**

VA Promotes Weight Management

Story taken from Military.com
The MOVE! program - "Managing Overweight Veterans Everywhere" - encourages veterans en-

For Conspicuous Gallantry

Each month we will publish a citation for a Marine or Navy Corpsman Medal of Honor recipient.



Cpl. Charles G. Abrell

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Fire Team

Team Leader in Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressors forces in Korea on 10 June 1951. While advancing with his platoon in an attack against well-concealed and heavily-fortified enemy hill positions, Corporal Abrell voluntarily rushed forward through the assaulting squad which was pinned down by a hail of intense and accurate automatic-weapons fire from a hostile bunker situated on commanding ground. Although previously wounded by enemy hand-grenade fragments, he proceeded to carry out a bold, single-handed attack against the bunker, exhorting his comrades to follow him. Sustaining two additional wounds as he stormed toward the emplacement, he resolutely pulled the pin from a grenade clutched in his hand and hurled himself

Bunker with the live missile still in his grasp. Fatally wounded in the resulting explosion which killed the entire enemy gun crew within the stronghold, Corporal Abrell, by his valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death, served to inspire all his comrades and contributed directly to the success of his platoon in attaining its objective. His superb courage and heroic initiative sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the United States Navel Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Harry S. Truman
President of the United States

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Once A Marine, Always a Marine!

~~Weatherford~~
~~http://www.ogdenmarines.org~~

Recipe for "Marine Breakfast"

Many of us had another name for this meal. We all knew it as "SOS." For those of us that would like to taste the original "Chipped Creamed Beef on Toast," here's the scaled down version for 8 people or 2 hungry Marines. I got it off the internet, but don't remember where. It was scaled down by a former Marine Mess Sgt. So it should be real close to the original stuff.

1.2 lb. Ground Beef (ground chuck for flavor)
1 tbs. Bacon fat (lard/Crisco or butter)
3 tbs. Flour
2 cups Whole milk (add more milk if you want it thinner)
1/8 tsp. Salt
Pepper (to taste)
8 slices of dry toast

Using a large skillett (12" - 14"), crumble and brown the ground beef with the fat and

Salt, remove the pan from the heat and let cool slightly.

Mix in all the flour until all the meat is covered.

Replace the skillett on the heat and stir in the milk, keep stirring until the mixture comes to a boil and thickens (boil a minimum of 1 minute).

Serve over the toast. Salt & pepper to taste.

MMmmm, sounds delicious, I wonder how "they" came up with the term "SOS?" Ben.