

# Semper Fi News

For Marines and FMF Corpsman of the Greater Ogden Area

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## Detachment Officers

- **Commandant: Chris Knowlden: (801)390-7778**
- **Sr. Vice Commandant: Jeff Sage: (801) 558-2016**
- **Jr. Vice Commandant: Ben Setter: (801) 525-0147**
- **Judge Advocate: Vernon Wade: (801)487-2621**
- **Adjutant/Paymaster: Jay Knowlden: (801)737-2689**
- **Chaplain: Lowell Baker:**
- **Sgt.-at-Arms: Donald J. Denney:**

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## Ambitious Recruiting goal set for Detachment

An ambitious goal is set for 2007. We want to double our membership. If each of us recruits a new member, that will double our membership and make us a stronger detachment. I see lots of vehicles with the Marine Corps Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the windows or on the bumper or the license plate. Either we have quite a few Marines in the area or a lot of "wanabes." Although I credit many of the EGAs to family members, I suspect there are many Marines out there who are not aware of the Marine Corps League and our detachment. When you talk to other Marines, make sure they get the information about us, BUT make sure you get

his/her information, name, phone number, address, email address, etc., you can call me at my home, 525-0147, or send it to my fax machine/voice mail machine, 773-7145 and I'll make contact with them or send them a copy of our newsletter. This is an ambitious goal, but it is achievable.

## Highlights of December Meeting

December's meeting was held at the American Legion Post 1334 in Clearfield. Surprisingly, very few members showed up. One of the reasons the meeting was moved back to the American Legion building was because some of the older members had mentioned that the meeting place in Layton was not as convenient as the American Legion Post. We discussed options on the

upcoming Department convention in June. We will continue to work on this topic since our detachment is hosting this years convention.

## MEETING TIME

**This month's meeting will be Wednesday, January 17 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](mailto:ben_setter@ogdenmarines.org). or you can fax it to me at (801)773-7145.

## A Successful Toys for Tots Season



Thanks to the long hours of some of the detachment members, and many volunteers in the area we were able to successfully complete our Toys for Tots 2006 Season. It looks like we increased the number of children who received toys from

the program by over 1000. 1070 children to be exact. At first there was some concern that all those families who requested Toys for Tots were not going to be able to be taken care of, but later results showed that they were. What had happened

was that the Salvation Army, whom we had worked with this year, fell short of toys and had to purchase gift cards to take care of those families without toys. A big thanks goes out to Marines, Cindy Davidson, Ken Hipwell,

(Continued on Page 3)



CMC General James T. Conway

## USMC Commandant Holds Senior Officer Meeting

This article comes from Marine Corps League Website. Posted by Admin on Jan 05, 2007 - 02:29 PM

Commandant of the Marine Corps Holds Senior Officers Meeting. Gen James T. Conway, USMC, new Commandant of the Marine Corps held an "all hands" senior officer's meeting in the Pentagon Auditorium. He spoke for about 40 minutes and answered questions.

1- The CMC wants to streamline the bureaucracy in the U.S. Marine Corps. He cited an example that he was here in the in the early to mid 1980's and the other day he had a routing sheet and when he looked at it, it was the

same routing sheet the MC had back in the 1980's, but the decision makers on the topic he was considering were not part of the route sheet. So he wants to make the process more focused and quicker by eliminating those that don't need to be included in the decisions and go straight to the Generals that need to provide input.

2- He wants to reduce institutional strain and stress on individuals and take a hard look at the deployment rotations. Now, when the troops return, they begin to gear up for the next rotation, how is this affecting the family? The strain on the Marine? He realizes too, that many Marines are volunteering time and time again to go back in theater. He sees it as the ones with experience want to go back to train the younger Marines. "We have to be ready when the rest of the Nation is not ready."

3- He wants to look at the equipment and gear the MC has? Do they need to maintain the equipment better and invest in fixing? Or remodeling? More maintenance workers? Or is it better to buy new "stuff?"

4- Need better support for the wounded and injured Marines and their families. They need to be better informed of what is available to them and the benefits they are entitled to. Right now the Marines on the east coast and the Marines on the west coast get different information and he wants all of them to have the most up to date and best information they and their family can possibly have, so there is a need to knit a better support program together for the wounded and their families.

5- There is a need to work closer and better with the Navy at all lev-

els, from the young enlisted to the top Generals and this is vice versa with the Navy. But with this being said, the MC will retain their requirements.

6- Regarding the rape case in the PI, the Hamandia and Haditha cases, are there issues in recruiting and training Marines? How can "we" make things better? Are these isolated incidents or is there an institutional problem? He believes these are isolated cases.

7- STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION - The CMC believes everyone in the MC should use the same talking points and give the same answers to certain questions, so he has asked the PAO to form a matrix and to do a web base talking point site that everyone can access and when a question is asked, they can look it up on the web and everyone will get the same answer, so, if there is a question regarding deployments, everyone should give the same answer.

8- He wants to decentralize the lower levels, however, when in doubt on a decision, bump it up, in particular anything having to do with the media and especially front page news, those decisions should be made at his level.

CMC has made 5 decisions:

1 - The Core Competency of the MC is marksmanship, no matter what type of weapon, whether it's a rifle or a tank. He wants all Marines to wear their marksmanship medals at all times, inside the beltway and away from the beltway. Because at this time they don't wear them inside the beltway.

2- He wants a 3 star Chief of Staff (CoS) on his staff and currently he  
(Continued Page 4)

ramped. Somehow, the original order never got through to the former nor the new (continued on page 3).

### Our Web Site Down for Month of December

By Ben Setter

Our website was brought down on December 5 to transfer to a differ-

ent, less expensive provider. However, in this case, Murphy's Law ran

## Some Program Ideas from the Marine Corps League

Ben Setter, Jr. Vice Commandant

I don't think that too many of you had the opportunity to go over the list I made last month on some program ideas for the detachment. Our most ambitious program for the year is the Toys for Tots program. Last year Commandant Chris Knowlden, his wife, and a very few others participated in the Toys for Tots program. This placed a lot of stress on those few members who did participate. This year we had similar results with volunteers. Jeff Sage, his wife, Cindy Davidson, Ken Hipwell and Cory Lingelbach participated as members of the detachment. Fortunately, through the efforts of members of several church groups we were able to pull it off again this year. Here's a partial reprint of last month's column: Many of you have asked what we can do as a detachment. So I put together a list of some of the things the Marine Corps League has or is involved in. Several of these require much more manpower than we have now, so if you are interested and getting involved, help recruit more members and make us a larger detachment!

Here's a partial list: I will give a little detail on some of these in future columns:

- Color Guards for Parades and Ceremonies
- Speaking engagements to schools, events, and other or-

### Toys for Tots News (from page 2)



Jeff Sage: Toys for

Tots News Cory Ingelbach from our detachment and Ken Perry from the Utah Headquarters Detachment for the excellent job they did. A lot of children who would not of had a very good Christ-

ganizations

- VA Hospital Volunteer Services
- Veterans support and assistance
- Support and assistance at National Cemeteries
- Marine Corps Birthday ceremonies
- Assistance to Marines, families and Marine Units
- Young Marines Program
- Youth Physical Fitness Program
- Youth, Scouting and Education support in the Community
- Hospital support within the Community
- Awards to members and citizens of the community for outstanding service
- Support of veteran affairs issues
- Public Relations and public notices for Marine, veteran and community involvement
- Prominent speakers for detachment programs.

If there is something you think we should be involved in, let's hear from you. In this case silence is NOT golden. If you like, leave a message on my voice mail at (801) 773-7145 or send me a fax to the same number.

mas did, thanks to all the Toys for Tots volunteers. Thanks to several church groups, we had over 30 other volunteers assist us with bagging and distributing all the toys to those who needed them.

**Lost Website** (continued from page 2) provider This created a situation where the old provider could no longer support the site and the new provider couldn't take control of the new site. Therefore, anyone having an email address that was xxxx@ogdenmarines.org has been down for over a month. By the time this newsletter is published our website will be back up and running just fine. Why change it you ask? Because, I was able to find a provider who would reduce the cost of having our own webpage by 60 percent, saving us \$80.00 per year. That, I thought was worth an initial dose of heartburn. As mentioned in the past, any paid member wishing to have an email address of his/her name@ogdenmarines.org, need only to contact me via the website and I'll set it up for you. Semper Fi, Ben Setter, web-

### (Story from USMC Web Site)

## First Long War Marine to receive Medal of Honor

By Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn, Headquarters Marine Corps

**Quantico, VA (Nov. 10, 2006)** -- A corporal who died shielding men in his care from a bursting grenade deserves America's highest military decoration, President Bush has confirmed.

Actions by Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who would have turned 25 today, merit the Medal of Honor, Bush said at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' dedication ceremony, which coincided with the 231st Marine Corps anniversary.

"And on this special birthday, in the company of his fellow Marines, I'm proud to announce that our nation will recognize Cpl. Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the (Continued page 4)

### Medal of Honor (Continued from 3)

Cpl. Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor," Bush said in front of approximately 15,000 people.

The announcement prompted a booming "Ooh-rah!" - spirited cry among Marines - from the back of the crowd, and a long applause followed.

On April 14, 2004, in Iraq near the Syrian border, the corporal used his helmet and his body to smother an exploding Mills Bomb let loose by a raging insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines tried to subdue.

The explosion dazed and wounded Lance Cpl. William Hampton and Pfc. Kelly Miller. The insurgent stood up after the blast and was immediately killed by Marine small-arms fire.

"By giving his own life, Cpl. Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a Marine," said Bush.

Dunham lay face down with a shard the size of a dress-shirt button lodged in his head. The hard,

molded mesh that was his Kevlar helmet was now scattered yards around into clods and shredded fabric. Dunham never regained consciousness and died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., with his mother and father at his bedside.



Corporal Jason L. Dunham

Dunham's commanding officers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, investigated his actions and nominated him for the Medal of Honor. After two years and seven months making its way to the White House, the nomination now has the necessary approval from the president. The president will present the medal and citation at a date to be determined.

Hoping the president would make the Medal of Honor announcement on their son's birthday, Dan and Debra Dunham drove to Quantico from their home in Scio, N.Y. Dunham is buried in Scio.

"The public now knows what Jason did," said Deb. "We still have a loss, but the gift that Jason gave helps us go on.

"The good part is that we get to make new memories and bring new people into the family; the bad news is there will be no new memories

with Jason."

The president acknowledged Dan and Deb sitting in the front row. The parents held each other close as the audience gave a resounding applause.

"We took (the applause) as a thank you for us, but it was for Jason," Deb said. "At that point, Dan and I were missing Jason a lot."

Addressing Dunham's parents, Bush said, "We remember that the Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced.

"As long as we have Marines like Cpl. Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty."

Before Dunham, the last Marine actions to earn the medal happened May 8, 1970, in Vietnam, according to Marine Corps History Division records. A Medal of Honor citation details Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith's machine-gun charge that inspired a platoon facing nearly overwhelming odds: Wounded, Keith ran into "fire-swept terrain." Wounded again by a grenade, he still attacked, taking out enemies in the forward rush. Keith fought until mortally wounded; his platoon came out on top despite being heavily outnumbered.

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### CMC Holds Senior Officer Meeting (Continued from Page 2)

is using LtGen Kramlicher who is the I & I, however, he has to be careful because the LtGen was confirmed by Congress to be the I & I, therefore, with the assistance of Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) he will apply for additional 3 star billets.

3- He wants to operate like a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and he wants to flatten the command structure. He be-

lieves MAGTF's have tremendous capabilities and he wants to use them as much as possible and in particular in theater. "That's our power."

4- Marines will be issued Dress Blues. It may cost the MC money to do this, but they should have them. Currently they are not issued Dress Blues upon boot camp graduation. Young Marines are being buried in borrowed Dress

Blues; they should have them as their own

5- He lived on Ft Myers and saw how the U.S. Army does PT in uniformed PT gear; he wants the MC to come up with a uniform PT gear too and to incorporate some type of reflective belt or material for times of darkness.

His tour will be a 4 year tour.

**Medal of Honor** (Continued from page 4)

The last Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was Maj. Gen. Day, James L. Day, who distinguished himself as a corporal in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. On Jan. 20, 1998, more than half a century later, President Bill Clinton presented the medal to who passed away that year. Since the Long War began, the president has presented one Medal of Honor. On April 4, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith posthumously earned the medal for organizing a defense that held off a company-sized attack on more than 100 vulnerable coalition soldiers. In the defense, Smith manned a .50 caliber machine gun in an exposed position until he was mortally wounded.

## Another New Detachment

The Department of Utah Commandant, Joseph Surace, tells us that the Utah Dixie Detachment, which will be located in St. George, is just about to get off to a start. The new membership is on tract and we should expect to see our sixth detachment in the state within the next couple months.

**For those interested each month we will publish a citation for a Marine or Navy Corpsman Medal of Honor recipient. Just for starters, I thought it would be nice to publish the citation of our own detachment member: George E. Wahlen**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 2d Battalion, 26 Marines, 5th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima in the Volcano group on 3 March 1945. Painfully wounded in the bitter action on 26 February, Wahlen remained on the battlefield, advancing well forward of the frontlines to aid a wounded Marine and

**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. I can't be the only person in this detachment that can talk, let's hear from you. Ben**

## For Conspicuous Gallantry

terrific concentration of fire. Tireless in his ministrations, he consistently disregarded all danger to attend his fighting comrades as they fell under the devastating rain of shrapnel and bullets, and rendered prompt assistance to various elements of his combat group as required. When an adjacent platoon suffered heavy casualties, he defied the continuous pounding of heavy mortars and deadly fire of enemy rifles to care for the wounded, working rapidly in an area swept by constant fire and treating 14 casualties before returning to his own platoon. Wounded again on 2 March, he gallantly refused evacuation, moving out with his company the following day in a furious assault across 600 yards of open terrain and repeatedly rendering medical aid while exposed to the blasting fury of powerful Japanese guns. Stouthearted and indomitable, he persevered in his determined efforts as

His unit waged fierce battle and, unable to walk after sustaining a third agonizing wound, resolutely crawled 50 yards to administer first aid to still another fallen fighter.

By his dauntless fortitude and valor, Wahalen served as a constant inspiration and contributed vitally to the high morale of his company during critical phases of this strategically important engagement. His heroic spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of overwhelming enemy fire upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

**If anyone has a suggestion as to a citation to publish, let me know. My phone, fax and email address are all over this newsletter. Ben Setter**

## Short Rounds

The 1Lt. Serge B. Simmons  
Marine Corps League Detachment #1159  
Post Office Box 9075  
Ogden, UT 84409-9075

Phone: 801-525-0147  
Fax: 801-773-7145  
Email: admin@ogdenmarines.org



*Once A Marine, Always a Marine!*

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