



# Semper Fi News

Volume 1, Issue 2

News for the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary members of the Greater Ogden Area.

September 2010

## Commandants Message

Not a lot has happened since August. The Toys for Tots First Annual Golf Tournament which was scheduled for September 20th has been cancelled. We just didn't have enough golfers signed up to make it profitable. We will start again in January to secure a date for the tournament planned for this Summer.

The first annual Family Summer Pot Luck on the 18th of September, was cancelled by Marine Roland Behunin, due to a family illness, we will not be able to hold it at his home. Everyone, please extend well wishes to Roland's family. Be sure to attend this months meeting on the 15th so that we can resolve this problem and take care of all the arrangements.

On September 11, three of us, Marines Andrea Seiler, Ben Setter and myself will be attending the quarterly Department of Utah meeting in Orem. We will bring you what is new from there and report to you during our monthly meeting on the 15th. As a final note, let us all make a concerted effort to double our membership this year! We can easily do this if each of us brings in just one new member. Let's do it!

Semper Fi,

Jay D. Wells

Commandant

### September Meeting:

**Date: September 15, 2010 Time: 7:00 PM**  
**Where: Golden Corral Restaurant**  
**Address: 988 Washington Blvd., Ogden, UT**

**Editors Note: As this news affects many Veterans I feel it was important to include it in our newsletter.**

VA Publishes Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

VA Health Care and Benefits Provided for Many Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (August 30, 2010) - Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to access quality health care and qualify for disability compensation under a final regulation that will be published on August 31, 2010 in the Federal Register by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The new rule expands herbicide exposures to add two new conditions and expand one existing category of conditions.

"Last October, based on the requirements of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and the Institute of Medicine's 2008 Update on Agent Orange, I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to award presumptions of service connection for these three additional diseases," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It was the right decision, and the President and I are proud to finally provide this group of Veterans the care and benefits they have long deserved."

The final regulation follows Shinseki's determination to expand the list of conditions for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. VA is adding Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease and expanding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their medical problems (continued page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Commandant Message	1
Agent Orange	1
Auxiliary News	2
Toys For Tots	2
Calendar	3

and their military service. By helping Veterans overcome evidentiary requirements that might otherwise present significant challenges, this “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process and ensure that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

The Secretary’s decision to add these presumptives is based on the latest evidence provided in 2008 independent study by the Institute of Medicine concerning health problems caused by herbicides like Agent Orange.

Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

More than 150,000 Veterans are expected to submit Agent Orange claims in the next 12 to 18 months, many of whom are potentially eligible for retroactive disability payments based on past claims. Additionally, VA will review approximately 90,000 previously denied claims by Vietnam Veterans for service connection for these conditions. All those awarded Service-connection who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

This historic regulation is subject to provisions of the Congressional Review Act that require a 60-day Congressional review period before implementation. After the review period, VA can begin paying benefits for new claims and may award benefits retroactively for earlier periods. For new claims, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the effective date of the regulation or to one year before the date VA receives the application, whichever is later. For pending claims and claims that were previously denied, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the date it received the claim.

VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation now so the agency can begin development of their claims.

Individuals can go to a website at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bin/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm> to get an understanding of how to file a claim for presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, as well as what evidence is needed by VA to make a decision about disability compensation or survivors benefits.

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA’s services for Veterans exposed to the chemical is available at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)

The regulation is available on the Office of the Federal Register website at <http://www.ofr.gov/>



## PFC James Jay Williams Unit 445



Upcoming events in October: The first Saturday is our annual Fund Raiser being dinner of Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Potato Chips and pickles. This will be held at the American legion, Post #1334 in Clearfield. Cost will be , Adults \$6.00 and Children \$4.50. Also by donation, receive one of our Marine Corps League roses to help us help others. It has been a fantastic Summer helping out the Detachment #1159 with the Rose Program and Roy Days. Donations were down. We’re working on being at Harmons in Roy on Veterans Day in November after the parade to continue to be active in this program. More next month and remember October 2nd at 5:00 p.m. Bring your appetite and have fun with us.

Semper Fi,

Lucille Knowlden  
President

## Let’s get Ready for Toys For Tots!

It’s that time of the year again. I will be leaving for the annual Toys for Tots conference in Virginia the day after our monthly detachment meeting. The conference will be from Thursday evening (the 16th) through the weekend and I will return to Utah on Sunday, the 20th with all the latest information to run this years program. We purchased a new program this year to help us keep track of everything; volunteers, toys, children, vendors, etc. Last year, due to several unforeseen events we had the worst year, as far and number of children helped, in the five years the detachment has been taking care of Toys For Tots, but we (continued on page 4)



# September 2010

Once A Marine, Always a Marine!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <b>Department Quarterly Meeting</b>
12	13	14	15 <b>1900 Detachment meeting.</b>	16	17	18 <b>Family Pot- Luck</b>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

(Toys for Tots continued from page 2) expect that this year will be our biggest ever. We need everyone's help! Beginning October 1 (or even sooner) give us a call and we'll put you to work! If we all work together, we can reduce the load on a few people and spread it around. It's a good cause and worth your time. This will be my forth year and will be stepping down as the coordinator after this year. My wife has too many health issues and needs me to be home a lot more these days. That's where I need to be. You'll find the job quite rewarding. Contact me, Ben Setter at (801) 525-0147 or Ralph Young (801) 390-1179.

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