



MIDEAST DIVISION BULLETIN

Marine Corps League

February 2018

National Vice Commandant

Members of the Mideast Division!

I trust that everyone is staying warm during these cold winter spells that we are all getting. As I am writing this, I know that Groundhog's Day is just around the corner; maybe..... just maybe he won't..... I suppose we'll just have to wait and see!

[The National Mid-winter Convention is just around the corner as well, being held in Fredericksburg, Va 1-3 March at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel & Conference Center.](#) You can find all of the Conference details on the National website. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

The December 2017 rosters just recently were published. As I have communicated with all of the Department Commandants, I am concerned with the amount of unpaid members we have in our Division and have tasked them to work with their Detachment Commandants to rectify this situation. Remember that every annual paying member's dues must be submitted to National no later than 01-September of each year. To ensure your membership shows current on the annual September roster, you should ensure that you dues are paid to your Detachment Paymaster no later than 01-August, keeping in mind that you can certainly pay earlier in the year as well. I ask every Department Paymaster to work more closely with their Detachments to ensure a proactive approach to getting these dues received in by 01-September this year.

I know all of our Departments are starting to get ready for their annual Conventions as well. If you have not yet forwarded on your Convention dates/details to our Mideast Adjutant, Frank Mathers, please do so as soon as possible for him to share this information with the whole Division. My personal goal is to attend all five Conventions this year, contingent to no overlapping date conflicts.

As you all know, Puerto Rico is included in our Division. I have been in contact with a Hard-Charger down there that already has 20 members signed up to Charter a new Detachment! This is growth for our Division and the Division Staff will work with them to ensure they stay motivated and in close communication with the rest of our Division. There has not been any Chartering date set yet, but you will be informed when that happens!

I want to thank every member of our Division for the continued support that you give to myself and the rest of your Division Staff. We are here to serve **YOU**. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions that you have. Take care of yourselves and each other. Semper Fi!

Semper Fidelis,
Bruce R. Rakfeldt
National Vice Commandant
Mideast Division
Marine Corps League





Mideast Vice President, MCL Auxiliary



Hoping everyone had a great and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. Have not a lot of news from the Mideast units at this time.

Unit 262 of Jacksonville, NC has been busy with the Fisher House on Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune. They have provided needed items, helped decorate for holidays and supplied goodies for the guests both at Thanksgiving and now for Valentines Day. The unit is also assisting a family whose Marine has had several strokes and they are currently turning their home to full handicap accessibility.

Robin Kennedy from the Department of Virginia and our Web Sgt. has had severe health issues. She is recovering but continues to need your prayers.

A new unit may be forming this month in NC. The addition will be a tremendous event as we only have one in all of NC. if any others want to form a unit to assist the League Detachments and want some help you can call me at 910-545-9333 and I will be available to assist.

Hope to see many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg. And lets all keep looking for that early spring!

Pat Walker
Mideast Vice President



The Marine Corps League Auxiliary was chartered on September 4, 1937 as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League. On August 25, 1950, the Auxiliary was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia as an affiliate of the Marine Corps League.



Mideast Vice Chief Devil Dog

Woof Woof Dogs of the Mideast Division. Hope you all had a great holiday season and supported your local Toys For Tots campaign. Our Division Packs and Pounds had a great 2017. Let's continue coming up with new ways to raise Passport Bones. Keep your Growls fun and your Dogs will keep coming back to spend more BONE\$.

My job had me spending a lot of time in the NC Dog House last year. I want to thank all the NC Dogs for their hospitality.

On an administrative note, all Pounds & Packs that are on a Calendar Year need to have your IRS 990N e-Postcard submitted by April 15. Also, don't forget to file your annual State Incorporation paperwork.

ALL Dogs (PDDs, DDs & Pups) are invited to attend the Mid-Winter Kennel Growl in Fredericksburg, VA on 2 March. It's in our Division, so we should expect a large turnout. I look forward to seeing you all there and be on the lookout for new Dogs that you can invite to join the MODD.

Semper Barking,
PDD Craig Reeling
Vice Devil Dog - Mideast Division
443-477-0670



Devil Dog's Creed

I am an American. I was born in France. I have held the title of United States Marine, and understand the commitment of holding the title, Devil Dog. It is a tradition born at Belleau Wood in the year 1918, of a Force In Readiness and the "First To Fight". As a Devil Dog, I ask no quarter and give no quarter. I will do everything in my power to uphold the objectives of the Military Order of Devil Dogs and to carry out my duties to a swift and satisfactory completion.

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.



ATTENTION ON DECK!

As of the National Roster dated 31 December 2017, the Mideast Division has **1,704** members who are unpaid.

All I can say is **GREAT JOB!!!!** You've decreased the unpaid members within the division by **732!!** Of course, the ideal number of unpaid members would be zero, but you all are doing an awesome in reducing the number of unpaid members! Keep up the good work! Let's get the number of unpaid members even lower for next quarter.

Department	PLM	Paid	Unpaid	Total Paid	Change Since Sept + / -
District of Columbia	47	3	45	50	2
Delaware	201	63	73	264	14
Maryland	728	313	229	1041	116
North Carolina	1261	808	645	2069	418
London	14	0	9	14	0
Virginia	879	241	485	1120	107
West Virginia	426	166	218	592	75
Division Total	3556	1594	1704	5150	732

**ALL NATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, INCLUDING
DUES RENEWALS MUST BE SENT TO:**

**3619 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554**



MidEast Division Officers



Roster: Updated 12 SEP 2017

MidEast Division Officers		
National Vice Commandant	Bruce Rakfeldt	mclbrucerakfeldt@triad.rr.com
Assistant NVC	Roger Ware	rrware@yahoo.com
Judge Advocate	Gerard F. Devlin	gerarddevlin@aol.com
Adjutant	Frank Mathers	mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com
Chief of Staff & Paymaster	R. Frederick Wise	ocwise1@comcast.net
Jr. Past NVC	Mike McLain	mclain@suddenlink.net
Aide-de-Camp to National	Jack Severn	jack7rn@comcast.net (301-865-1962)
Chaplain	Lee Taylor	justlee.taylor@yahoo.com
Sgt-at-Arms	Charles Minton	ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com
Sgt-at-Arms	Jeffrey Jones	jdjones0311@aol.com
Web Sergeant	Robin Kennedy	robin.kennedy11414@gmail.com
Ambassador	Guy Hall	usmc376@yahoo.com
Historian	Evelyn Remines	mclchick@hotmail.com
Vice Chief Devil Dog	Craig Reeling	Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org
MCLA MidEast VP	Pat Walker	walker919@excite.com

Department Commandants		
DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE		
Commandant	Chuck Landon	chas2508@gmail.com
DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND		
Commandant	Evelyn Remines	mclchick@hotmail.com
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA		
Commandant	Jeffery Jones	jdjones0311@aol.com
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA		
Commandant	James Barrett	Jbarrett1966usmc@gmail.com
DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA		
Commandant	Michael McLain	mclain@suddenlink.net
DC MARINES DETACHMENT 302		
Commandant	Helen Hicks, PNC	corpsma@aol.com
LONDON UK DETACHMENT 1088		
Commandant	Mark Scher	markescher1@gmail.com

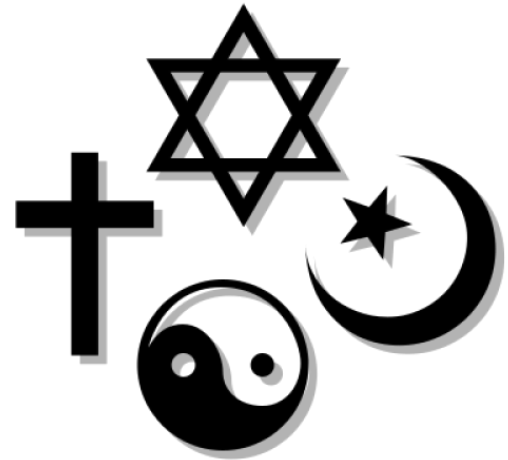


Mideast Division Chaplain

In order to fulfill my duties at the Midwinter Conference in March, I need each Department Chaplain to forward me the number of member deaths we have had since last year. I am asking to have this information no later than 26 February.

Email justlee.taylor@yahoo.com or call me at 540-588-4134

Thank you
Lee Taylor



Mideast Division Web Sergeant

Happy New Year! As most of you may know, I have been busy recovering from my hospital stay in November. Thank you all for your kind words and prayers. My memory is finally coming back and with this new lease on life, I have started looking at ways to enhance our online presence for the good of the Members, the Division, and the League.

Visit www.mclmideast.com and you will see on the Home page some links to purchase our new Mid-East Division patches. (as seen on the next page) You can use a credit card to buy the patches online, or you can fill out the online form and then mail a check. My goals for this year are to web-enable as much as we can, including forms we use a lot, requests, submissions, etc. Our social media presence and interaction continues to flourish as well.

As always, send me your ideas and suggestions and I will work to get them implemented!

Ever forward,
Robin Kennedy
robin.kennedy11414@gmail.com



Mideast Division Patch Fundraiser

The Mideast Division is proud to present this 2018 fundraising project to every member of our Division! This patch can be proudly worn on your Devil Dog vest, Marine Corps sateen or MCLA jacket or on any other attire you have to show off your League pride!

The patch is 5" high X 4" wide with incredible detail and color!
The price per patch is \$8!

Orders can be placed with the Mideast Division Paymaster, Fred Wise via phone, (410) 430-0648, or by email at ocwise1@comcast.net.

Shipping charges will be calculated and added based on the quantity ordered. Sorry, no COD shipments. All orders must be prepaid.

Thank you for supporting the Mideast Division!





Eagle Scout Coordinator Mideast Division

I want to thank all the Detachments who participate in the Good Citizenship award for Eagle Scout program. This is a great program that the Marine Corps League offers for Scouts, it helps us as a League get out into our communities and be seen. If your Detachment does not have an Eagle Scout program please contact your Department Coordinator to find out how easy it is to get involved with this, or if you have questions or need some ideas as to how to increase or start a program please send me an email and I'll do all I can to help you out.

Each Detachment needs to submit there number of certificate presented to your Department Coordinator as requested. This is important for them because we have to submit our numbers to National twice a year Mid- Winter and National convention so please insure that you get them your reports in a timely manner because they need time to complete there report and send it to me so that I can send my report to National.

My contact information is as follows: 252-452-0728 email ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com

Semper Fi,

Charles Minton



SEARCHING FOR LONG LOST COMMRADSES!!!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF MCRD PARRIS ISLAND
PLATOON #3113—1966

Your fellow boot camp Marines would like to get in contact with you.
If you graduated from platoon #3113 in 1966 please contact Phil Randall.

phlrandall43@gmail.com or (336)207-1664



ToonClips.com #7736 service@toonclips.com



James M. Slay Detachment Honor Guard in Richmond presenting honors at the Virginia War Memorial on Memorial Day

MCL members were invited to the change of command ceremony for the Marine Detachment at Ft. Lee, Virginia.

Several Virginia detachments just completed very successful Toys for Tots programs in their respective communities.

We are working closely with the Marine Corps Recruit Station, Richmond to support recruiters in their local areas. We have also organized presentations for recruiters considering separation from the service to let them know what resources are available through the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Jim Barrett
Commandant
Dept. of Virginia
Marine Corps League





Department of North Carolina

The Department of North Carolina is doing well. We changed our ByLaws last June and eliminated our Winter Quarterly meeting. We now are having two membership meetings and our Department Convention in June. This cut out some of our Department expenses, and eliminated some Winter logistics. We did have a volunteer planning meeting in January for anyone interested in the Direction of our Department. The meeting went well with 44 in attendance. I think we gained some forethought in the future of DoNC.

We have been busy with Toys for Tots and now are really focusing of getting a large number of our Detachments involved in the Eagle Scout Recognition Program. This is a great way to give back to our communities and get a little community exposure.

We will have a good representation of Marines to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Fredricksburg, VA the first weekend in March. Then in April I would like to invite you all down for Marine South aboard Camp LeJeune. Those dates will be April 11 & 12. It is great to see the advancements that the Marine Corps is making.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Semper Fi,

Jeffrey D. Jones

DoNC Commandant

JDJones0311@aol.com

(252) 205-6506



Wednesday & Thursday, April 11–12, 2018

Marine South is co-sponsored by and held at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. Marine South commands from Camp Lejeune; Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point and Marine Corps Air Station, New River are among the attendees. Held since 1993, this annual exposition showcases the latest innovative displays, trailblazing computer simulations and state-of-the-art technology systems and equipment designed specifically for the U.S. Marine Corps.

<https://www.marinemilitaryexpos.com/marine-south/home/>



DIVISION MARINE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2018 Mideast Division Marine of the Year.

Chairman	Roger Ware	West Virginia
Committee Member	Bud Raines	Maryland
Committee Member	Tony Begenwald	Maryland
Committee Member	Richard Tanner	Delaware
Committee Member	Mike McLain	West Virginia
Committee Member	Jeff Jones	North Carolina

- * The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination
- * Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate.
- * Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated
- * Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman (Roger Ware), registered return receipt, post marked not later than **May 15, 2018**.
- * **Mail to:**
 Roger Ware
 181 Weese St
 Elkins, WV 26241. Telephone: 304-636-4365.
- * The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2018 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference - June 26, 2018 in Ellicott City, MD.
- * The above provisions are for 2018 Marine of the Year selection only
- * Criteria is listed on the next page



DIVISION MARINE OF THE YEAR CRITERIA

This award shall be presented to a **REGULAR MEMBER** of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

- * Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.
- * All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division MOY was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant).
- * Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairman, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested. (Chairman's name and address on the preceding page of this bulletin.)
- * The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least in either an elected or appointed position within his/her detachment and/or department.
- * List how many years he/she has been a member.
- * List his/her positions and what was the significance of each, if any.
- * List if he/she a current or former Detachment or Department Marine of the Year.
- * The recommendation should summarize what the member has done in his/her detachment, and/or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the performance brought credit upon his/her detachment and not merely list that he/she performed the duties expected of his/her position and/or attended meetings.
- * What were the results of any activities he/she participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his/her position.
- * List those activities where he/she was the chairman or committee lead. (Example: *Marine X has been Toys for Tots for 15 years and has toys collected a gazillion toys that benefited ten thousand children.*)
- * What civic projects or volunteer did he/she do to enhance the league. (If he/she did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it.)
- * What did he/she do as a volunteer outside of his/her detachment for the league.
- * Was he/she recognized within his community for a project.
- * The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his/her MCL awards.
- * Did he/she attend department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter Staff Conference, National Convention
- * The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process.
 - * Consideration can be giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his/her detachment for either serving on department, division or national level and on any committees.



Conferences and Conventions

2018 National Mid-Winter Conference

March 1-3, 2018 - MCL National Midwinter Staff Conference
Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center
2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.
Group code: MCLMDWINTER18 Phone: (540) 786-8321
Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy
Rate TBA per night + prevailing tax (currently 11.3%)

2018 Mideast Division Conference

June 15-17, 2018
Turf Valley Resort
2700 Turf Valley Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Group code: 2844UW Phone: (410) 465-1500
Room rates \$109 plus tax. Reservations must be made by 16 May 2018
Conference registration opening 1 January 2018

2018 Marine Corps League National Convention

12 - 18 August 2018
Hyatt Hotel, Buffalo Convention Center.
Brought to you by, The Marine Corps League Department of New York
and the Marine Corps League Department of New York Auxiliary and Devil Dogs!
With a lot of help from Visit Buffalo, the Hyatt Hotel, the Buffalo Convention Center
and the people of Buffalo, NY. For additional information please refer to
<http://2018mclnationalconvention.com/>

**Be sure to register and book your rooms early! Hope to see
you at all the Conferences and the National Convention!**



Department Conventions

West Virginia

May 4–6, 2018

Quality Inn Gallipolis

577 State Route 7 North

Gallipolis, OH 45769

Phone: 740-446-0090

Hosted by MGM Detachment 1180

Delaware

May 11–12, 2018

Information TBA

Maryland

May 11–12, 2018

Princess Royale

9100 Coastal Highway

Ocean City, MD 21842

Phone: 410-524-7777

Convention Chairman: Don Benson msgte8don@yahoo.com

Registration and full information can be found at:

http://www.deptofmdmcl.org/Conventions/2018_Convention_Packet-Full.pdf

Virginia

May 18–20, 2018

Information TBA

North Carolina

June 29–30, 2018

Information TBA



Editor's Corner

Happy New Year to all!

I hope all of you are doing well and getting through the winter! We are finally seeing seasonal temperatures here in Maryland after a seemingly long haul of arctic winds and snow! I know we have a while until winter is over, but I'm going to keep my fingers crossed that it stays above zero degrees until spring finally arrives.

Since the November bulletin, I've started my classes with the American Military University. For those of you who hadn't heard, I was awarded a scholarship through the Marine Corps League in order to complete my bachelor's degree. I have decided to major in Homeland Security since it was the degree program that best suited my work at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Command, where I have been employed for the past sixteen years. Anyway, the classes are eight weeks long and I'm required to take two at a time. It is very intense and if you don't hear from me as much as you used to, it is most likely because I'm trying to balance work, school, and my duties as the Dept of Maryland Commandant. Not all of it ends up getting divided up as evenly as I would like.

As always, I am hoping that I receive feedback on the bulletin. Any ideas for additions, subtractions, or alterations are appreciated! I will take submission from anyone! If you feel that your Detachment has a great story that needs to be seen by the entire Division then send it on into me for the next edition! We will be publishing four times a year, more if there's a need.

**** (last minute update) ****

I'm sad to report the passing of our Chaplain, Tony Begenwald on 3 February. Please keep his family in your hearts at this time. He was a loyal League member and will be greatly missed.

Semper fi,
Evie Remines
Editor
Mideast Division Bulletin
Commandant
Department of Maryland



This is me looking all fancy while trying on hats at an Irish Festival last year.