



Gold Country Det. #885  
Grass Valley, California

## 2009-2010 Officers & Staff:

Commandant:	David Voors
Sr. Vice Commandant:	John Bynes
Jr. Vice Commandant:	Jim Brodeur
JAG:	Ed Rossovich
Adjutant/Paymaster:	Gary Miller
Sgt-at-Arms:	Dan Baldwin
Quarter Master:	Skip Rankin
Chaplain	Jim Edwards
Chaplain	Carlos Flores
Boondocker Editor	Art Leitherer

## Commandant's

### Message



#### Happy Independence Day Marines !

I hope you all had a great Father's Day and spent it doing whatever it is that you like to do with your loved ones; I know I did. I took a while but summer is definitely here! What a great time of year with warmer weather and everything that brings like shorts, vacations, bikinis. . . .

For some civilians, I know the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is just another holiday or three day weekend; heck some people don't really know what it means anymore and that is truly sad. To me, however, Independence Day and the Marine Corps go together hand in glove. Not just because we have fought to keep our Nation free but for many of us and Marines still today, the Marine Corps represents the first real time of independence as people. First time away from home, first time to travel, first sense of real accomplishment, first time to be responsible, first time to be part of something bigger than yourself & first time to be independent.

This 4th of July, I wish all of you the very best. I pray that you and your families will be happy and healthy as well as our League and our great Nation. Stand tall and remember that you were and are part of an elite Corps of the finest fighting force the world has ever seen. Just like the Corps itself, we may not be the largest Veteran's group in town but we are the best, most recognizable and the most active. Please reach out to those members who may not be coming to meetings regularly or not at all. While I think we have one of the finest MCL websites in the nation and we communicate well through email, not everyone is online and so we need to reach out and stay in touch with **ALL** our comrades.

With our longer summer days I hope to see some of you Marines that don't like driving after dark. We meet at 1800 so there's no excuse now, you can come to the meeting and still be home before dark; if you need a ride call me and we'll arrange it. Remember, because of the holiday routine, the July meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Let's do our best to advance our cause and have a good time doing it!

Semper Fidelis,

David Voors, Commandant

530-615-0060

[dvoors@MCL885.org](mailto:dvoors@MCL885.org)

#### Inside this issue:

Adjutant's Message	2
Detachment News	2
M4 vs AK-47	3
Event Calendar	4



#### Happy Birthday!!!

##### July:

- Dan Baldwin
- Dustin Eichler
- Barbara Gunning
- Norvan Holverson
- Robert Noyes
- Archie Rackerbury
- John Strapak
- Dave Voors

##### August:

- Herb Gardner

##### September:

- Monte Norton
- Dave Spencer
- G.B. Tucker
- John Wallen

## Membership

*These are Dues for this month and the next three months are:*

#### Past Due:

*D. Harkins (April)*

*E. Harkins (June)*

*Salinas (June)*

*Spencer (June)*

#### July:

*Sharp*

#### August:

*Baldwin*

*F. Rankin*

*L. Rankin*

*Strapak*

## From the Adjutant's Desk

### The Gadsden Flag's Namesake



#### Christopher Gadsden & Esek Hopkins

Although Benjamin Franklin helped create the American rattlesnake symbol, his name isn't generally attached to the rattlesnake flag. The yellow "don't tread on me" standard is usually called a Gadsden flag, for Colonel Christopher Gadsden, or less commonly, a Hopkins flag, for Commodore Esek Hopkins.

These two individuals were mulling about Philadelphia at the same time, making important contributions to American history and the history of the rattlesnake flag.

Christopher Gadsden was an American patriot if ever there was one. He led Sons of Liberty in South Carolina starting in 1765, and was later made a colonel in the Continental Army. In 1775 he was in Philadelphia representing his home state in the Continental Congress. He was also one of three members of the Marine Committee who decided to outfit and man the Alfred and its sister ships.

Gadsden and Congress chose a Rhode Island man, Esek Hopkins, as the commander-in-chief of the Navy. The flag that Hopkins used as his personal standard on the Alfred is the one we would now recognize. It's likely

that John Paul Jones, as the first lieutenant on the Alfred, ran it up the gaff.

It's generally accepted that Hopkins' flag was presented to him by Christopher Gadsden, who felt it was especially important for the commodore to have a distinctive personal standard. Gadsden also presented a copy of this flag to his state legislature in Charleston. This is recorded in the South Carolina congressional journals:

"Col. Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattle-snake in the middle, in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, "Don't Tread on Me!"

Note: This history of the Gadsden flag was written by me, Chris Whitten, based on extensive personal research. It also appears on [www.FoundingFathers.info](http://www.FoundingFathers.info). You are welcome to quote from it, reprint excerpts, or even republish the entire thing. However, please give me credit and link to [Gadsden.info](http://Gadsden.info). Thanks!

Semper Fi,

Gary Miller, Adjutant/Paymaster



Commodore Hopkins, portrait by C. Corbutt, 1776. The 'Don't Tread on Me' flag in this image appears to be a First Navy Jack. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

## Detachment News

The Detachment annual picnic will not be held until the September-October time frame. Postponement comes because of summer vacation interference with MCL member participation. The Detachment Commandant will be traveling on July 12<sup>th</sup>; John Bynes will have the duty on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster will be traveling July 7<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>, our *Jr. Vice Commandant*: Jim Brodeur will pinch-hit for Gary during his absence. Paymaster disbursements are the duty of the Commandant during Paymaster TAD.

Casino Night fund raiser did better this year than last. The Detachment cleared \$3000 for the event. Next year's *proposed* theme is Hawaiian Luau, featuring Kailua Pig, Monkey-on-a-stick, Mai Tais, Hawaiian Beer, and everybody gets lei'd; i.e., a Hawaiian lei placed around their necks. With what has been learned from the last two year's events, the Detachment expects even greater success in our next big fund raiser. Think about the proposed theme and let your Officers and Staff know your thoughts at up-coming meetings.

Reprinted from FOXNews.com, May 25, 2010

## M4 Vs. AK-47: Is U.S. Army Outgunned in Afghanistan?

By Jeremy A. Kaplan

Despite the ages-old rifles in Taliban hands, reports suggest our soldiers may be outgunned in Afghanistan's hills. To counter, the Army plans a slew of upgrades to certain weapons -- and several entirely new guns.

Taliban fighters in Afghanistan are attacking U.S. Army soldiers with AK-47s, while the army relies upon the M4 Assault rifle. The AK-47 uses a larger bullet, which leads to more kickback upon firing. Some reports indicate that the U.S. Army is looking to upgrade the weapons being used in Afghanistan to larger caliber guns.

An AP report published over the weekend in [Army Times](#) argued that the M4 rifle's light bullets lack sufficient velocity and killing power in long-range firefights. The report states that the U.S. is considering a switch to weapons that fire a larger round, one largely discarded in the 1960s.

"What's the right caliber?" asks Jim Battaglini, executive vice president with [Colt Defense](#) and a retired major gen with the U.S. Marine Corps. "The debate has been ongoing for over 40 years, with pros and cons for all options being considered."

The 7.62mm round in the AK-47 is heavier and larger than the 5.56mm caliber bullet in the M4, and can therefore fly further on average. But Battaglini dismisses reports that the Army is considering rearming soldiers in Afghanistan. "On the battlefield, there are no reported operational issues with the M4. It's the weapon of choice in Iraq, and still the desired weapon in Afghanistan," he told FoxNews.com.

Colonel Douglas Tamilio, project manager for Soldier Weapons in the Army's [Program Executive Officer](#) (PEO) Soldier division, downplayed the report too, as well as the significance of discussions about adopting larger caliber weaponry.

"You look at the fight you're in and decide, do I need to go back and do that?" But Tamilio is unswerving in his loyalty to the M4, calling it simply better than the AK-47.

"To me there is no comparison. The M4 is inherently much more accurate than the AK-47," he told FoxNews.com. Tamilio explained that there are far more factors at play in determining the lethality of a weapon than mere caliber.

"We look at the ability of our soldier to incapacitate

a target based on the weapon he's carrying, the recoil, the round the weapon is chambered for, what situation the soldier is in, how many rounds can he carry, his training, does he have optics on him ... there are so many variables that determine lethality."

"They're different system, difficult to compare," agreed Daniel Wasserbly, land forces reporter for [Jane's Defence Weekly](#). He points out other differences, such as the shorter barrel in the M4, which makes it somewhat more geared to urban combat and the close-in battles of Iraq than the more open warfare in Afghanistan.

"But all the M4s have fairly advanced optics, which really add to their capabilities," he told FoxNews.com.

Col. Tamilio, who's PEO group is responsible for developing, fielding and sustaining new weapons, explained that the M4 has evolved substantially over the years, and that new upgrades and even new guns planned for this summer should dramatically enhance our soldiers' capabilities.

"It's not the AK-47s putting a significant threat on our soldiers, it's the sniper rifles," Tamilio said, citing the Soviet era guns capable of killing from 600 to 700 meters away. "We need the ability to answer back to those."

To address the issue of snipers, there's the M14EBR, a 7.62 caliber rifle designed to handle the recoil from big bullets better. That gun will be accurate to 800 meters.

His division took old M14s and made them like new, added new stocks, rails, bipods, and powerful optics to create a new gun.

"It's not a sniper weapon, but it's pretty damn close to it."

Tamilio's group has improved the ammunition for the M4, upgrading the standard 855 round to the 8551a, "which strips away the dependency on yaw and made it more consistent." The new rounds should be in guns in Afghanistan this summer, along with barrels 5 oz heavier, for increased sustained fire.

He also cites plans for a new bolt and an improved adapter, called a [Picatinny rail](#), which allows mounting of flashlights, lasers, and so on. Why upgrade a weapon that's "outgunned"? Tamilio flat-out disagrees with the characterization.

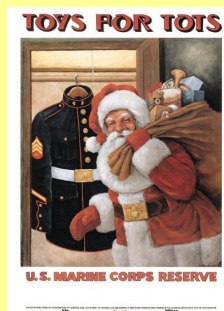
"The M4 is getting a bad rep, and it's an unfortunate thing. It's the best weapon in the world today. "



Navy corpsman Michael Lang, of Camden County, Ga., right, with an M-4 carbine, and Lance Cpl. Ard Bizahaloni of Pinon, Ariz., with an M-16 rifle

*Salty Dogs* will meet for lunch at their regular rendezvous, Perko's Café every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. We start at 1100 and finish when we've chowed down, and exchanged all the scuttlebutt and sea stories to satiate an old salty Marine warrior's appetite. See you there. Semper Fi

A couple great organizations that appreciate your support.



eMarinePX.com



## Upcoming Events

- **July 12, 2010 — Regular Meeting**  
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **July 21, 2010 — Staff Meeting — 1730**  
3rd Wednesday of every month
- **August 2, 2010 — Regular Meeting**  
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **August 18, 2010 — Staff Meeting — 1730**  
3rd Wednesday of every month
- **September 6, 2010 — Labor Day**
- **September 13, 2010 — Regular Meeting**  
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **September 15, 2010 — Staff Meeting — 1730**  
3rd Wednesday of every month

BoondockerIssue 02-04-2010



USMC



Your Best Friend  
Your Worst Enemy



Gold Country Detachment #885  
664-A Freeman Lane # 255  
Grass Valley, Ca 95949