



Gold Country Det. #885
Grass Valley, California

Commandant's Message



Hello Marines,
I hope this issue finds you well. Just out of the County Fair and summer we start heading into fall. Just a few last days of summer to enjoy. September 11 is Constitution Day weekend with reenactments in Pioneer Park and the parade down Broad Street with our Detachment leading the way! We still need a couple of volunteers with dress blue pants so step forward.

A few of us performed the Color guard for the 1st annual "Welcome Home Vets Bike Run" in Penn Valley. I thought it was pretty successful and we looked pretty good; if I do say so myself.

It seems like school is starting earlier and earlier and both of my boys are back at it crackin' the books for the '10-'11 school year. Back to school before Labor Day! Speaking of which I hope you all enjoyed the nice long weekend and didn't spend it laboring. WOW, I can't believe how fast time is passing!

I'll be attending the Toys for Tots convention this year in Virginia for the first time so I am looking forward to that and the benefits that will bring to our program. Fall officially starts on 22 September and so I'm looking forward to coming back and getting this year's campaign off to a good start.

A little Marine trivia for you: 2 September 1945: The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship *Mis-*

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

souri in Tokyo Bay. With General Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was LtGen Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

Please remember that this month's meeting is 13 September (2nd Monday) because of the Labor Day holiday. As there has not been a volunteer to chair the Ball this year and time has all but run out, I am gathering details for the Marine Corps Balls in Reno, Sacramento & Auburn and will distribute to all when complete.

Lastly, again, I want to thank you on behalf of the staff for your confidence in us. We will do our best to advance our cause and have a good time doing it.

Thanks & Semper Fi,

David M. Voors, Commandant,
Detachment 885

Inside this issue:

Editor's Choice	2
Detachment News	2
Tactical Warfare	3
Events	4



Happy Birthday!!!

September:

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

October:

- Rick Berringer
- Burt Duer
- Steve Hoss
- Peter Waskowitz

November:

- Jim Brodeur
- Sherrick Hiscock
- Art Leitherer
- Matthew Sharp

Editor's Choice

Bill of Rights Anniversary

Last Dec. 15, was the 218th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 Amendments to our Constitution, as ratified in 1791.

The Bill of Rights was inspired by three remarkable documents: John Locke's 1689 thesis, Two Treatises of Government, regarding the protection of

"property" (in the Latin context, proprius, or one's own "life, liberty and estate"); in part from the [Virginia Declaration of Rights](#) authored by George Mason in 1776 as part of that state's Constitution; and, of course, in part from our [Declaration of Independence](#) authored by *Thomas Jefferson*.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Read in context, the Bill of Rights is both an affirmation of innate individual rights and a clear delineation on constraints upon the central government. As oft trampled and abused as the Bill of Rights, Marines have remained vigilant in the fight to preserve those rights since the inception of our country.

The Rights and Obligations of Liberty

"No country upon earth ever had it more in its power to attain these blessings than United America. Wondrously strange, then, and much to be regretted indeed would it be, were we to neglect the means and to depart from the road which Providence has pointed us to so plainly; I cannot believe it will ever come to pass." --George Washington

As Americans, we not only enjoy the rights affirmed by our Constitution, we have *obligations* to understand the mechanics of that affirmation in order to sustain it for our generation and those to come.

No matter what our calling, our occupation or our passion, we have a debt and duty as citizens to both learn about and support our Constitution, and we are obliged to do so above and before all other pursuits, for without constitutional Rule of Law, there *are* no other pursuits.

Fortunately, in the words of Samuel Adams, "It does not take a majority to prevail ... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."

George Washington noted at the conclusion of the American Revolution, "The value of liberty was thus enhanced in our estimation by the difficulty of its attainment, and the worth of characters appreciated by the



trial of adversity."

These days, most Americans believe that liberty is their birthright. For most citizens never had to fight for liberty and, thus, have little concept of its value or any sense of gratitude for its accumulated cost.

In his 1833 Commentaries on the Constitution, Justice Joseph Story wrote, "Let the American youth never forget, that they possess a noble inheritance, bought by the toils, and sufferings, and blood of their ancestors; and capacity, if wisely improved, and faithfully guarded, of transmitting to their latest posterity all the substantial blessings of life, the peaceful enjoyment of liberty, property, religion, and independence."

Likewise, John Adams noted, "Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right, from the frame of their nature, to knowledge, as their great Creator, who does nothing in vain, has given them understandings, and a desire to know..." He added, "Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people,

[are] necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties."

To that end, James Madison wrote, "What spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty and Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual and surest support?"

James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of George Washington's original Supreme Court justices, put it most concisely: "Law and liberty cannot rationally become the objects of our love, unless they first become the objects of our knowledge."

Excerpts from "The Patriot Post (www.patriotpost.us/subscribe/)"

Detachment News

Detachment 885 meeting convened at 1805, on August 2, 2010. Staff in attendance was D. Voors, J. Brodeur, E. Rossovich, C. Flores, and D Baldwin. Rossovich reported that the next shipment will be the last to those Marines currently in country, they are coming home. Voors will be attending the annual Toys-For-Tots conference in Virginia on September 16-19. Bradley Dixon was introduced to the Detachment for potential membership. Awaiting induction but not present at this meeting were Tony Pagan and Mildred Raiche. Paymaster is returning from TAD (vacation) this month. Minutes for July accepted, O. Steele moved to accept, M.R. Espinoza seconded.

Many people are inquiring about the memorial wall wondering about its disposition. J. Byne has an action to determine if permits are ready from the City. An outline of the plan is required by our October meeting. The Detachment annual picnic has been postponed until further notice; location availability was problematic. The Constitution Day Color Guard on 12 Sept 2010 @ 1400 will consist of D. Voors, D Baldwin, J. Brodeur, and either L.T. Rankin or D. Spencer. Look sharp men! The 50/50 winner was D. Baldwin, he donated the entire \$28 back to the Detachment. The meeting ended at 1843 on the same day as it started.

Marine Corps Tactical Warfare — part two

By 1961, the U.S. was moving into a guerrilla counter offensive in South Vietnam. This required an increased commitment of U.S. helicopter capability in country, which improved Republic of South Vietnam Army (ARVN) troop mobility and responsiveness in executing counteractions against guerrilla attacks. These operations deployed a 1st MAW helicopter squadron in the Delta, including Medium Transport Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 362; a squadron with 24 Sikorsky UH-34s, augmented by three light observation aircraft, one R4D transport and 50 additional helicopter maintenance personnel, and a reinforced sub-unit of Marine Air Base Squadron 16. The task unit was code-named "Shufly" and operated in Vietnam with different components and in different Corps areas for the next several years. UH-34s were primary means of troop transport and casualty evacuation. Later in the year a pair of 50 caliber machine guns was mounted in the helo, one in the door and one in the window, giving it some armament for protection and clearing a hostile LZ. The force-in-readiness posture and responsiveness of Marine Aviation was again demonstrated, as the task unit was in place at Soc Trang less than two weeks from the date of approval of the deployment.

Control of Marine Air

During the Korean War, there was a strong element of dissatisfaction at certain times with the idea of all Marine Aviation tactical units being under the operational control of the 5th Air Force. Several years prior to 1965, CinCPac had convened a special board to examine the employment of tactical air and the lessons to be learned from the Korean War. The board was composed of members of the CinCPac staff and each of the component commands, Army, Navy and Air Force, and was headed by Brigadier General McCutcheon, then- Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, CinCPac.

The board met and drew up guidelines for CinCPac directives promulgated in the Vietnam War years. As a result, an agreement was reached between Commander 7th AF (formerly 2nd Air Division) and Commanding General 1st MAW in August 1965, delineating the levels of control. This put operational control of Marine Air under the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, except that single control authority for purposes of air defense was given to the 7th AF. This remained the basic policy for command and control of Marine Aviation in Vietnam until 1968 when the subject

arose again.

At the start of the escalation of U.S. deployments to Vietnam, the Marine air control system (MACS) was basically composed of the same elements as in Korea.

In June 1967, MACS-4 arrived in Vietnam, bringing with it a modern semi-automated, computer-oriented Tactical Air Direction Center (TADC) which had been developed as a component of the Marine Tactical Data System (MTDS). MACS-4 was sited on Monkey Mountain, near Danang, a high promontory overlooking the South China Sea. More construction at the site was needed because, in addition to the radars and their antennae, room had to be made in the thick jungle for 16 helicopter-transportable huts for the TADC and for four others that comprised the tactical data communications central (TDCC). It was worth the effort;

however, as the TADC gave the wing the ability to handle 250 aircraft tracks, friendly and hostile, simultaneously.

It was recommended that the various service air control systems talk to each other. The TDCC turned out to be the logical link. From the time it was in place, the TADC was operating with the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) and the Airborne Tactical Data System (ATDS) units of the 7th Fleet in the Tonkin Gulf, both of

which were compatible with MTDS from the development period on. The loop was closed with the Air Force system. Essentially, this allowed the receipt of messages from Navy, Marine or Air Force systems, the translation of the one received into the other two, and the transmission of the translations to the respective centers where they could be displayed. The net result was that air defense and air control data could be passed from Thailand to Danang to 7th Fleet ships in the Tonkin Gulf, and vice versa.

Ground Attack Missions

Much like Korea, Vietnam for Marine aviation was not an air-to-air show. In direct air support missions, including close air support, there were some notable differences in Vietnam from previous operations. With few exceptions, air strikes had to be controlled by an airborne controller, and there had to be a *political clearance* in addition to the tactical go-ahead to hit the target. Not only was it necessary to know the exact position of the requesting unit and the target area of the village, but it also was essential to know the location of any friendly villagers or district militia who

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

might be in the environs of the village. This additional clearance requirement sometimes came through the Province Chief, through ARVN channels, or was included in the mission. Needless to say, it was a complicating factor, although essential and understandable. What it did was to minimize the roles of the Forward Air Controllers (FAC) on the ground and increase the activities of the FAC Airborne. When the A-6A deployed to Vietnam, all-weather air support capability was measurably improved. The A-6 could deliver weapons at night or in bad weather with accuracy approaching that achieved by the A-4 in clear weather. Carrying a normal load of 14,000 pounds of ordnance, this A-6 capability was extremely useful in the monsoon season. Both the F-4 and A-4 were used primarily in direct air support, most of the time in daylight clear weather. The average ordnance loads were 3,000 pounds for the A-4 and 5,000 for the F-4.

(continued next month in Part 3)

Upcoming Events

- **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
- **October 4, 2010 — Regular Meeting**
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **October 20, 2010 — Staff Meeting — 1730**
3rd Wednesday of every month
- **November 1, 2010 — Regular Meeting**
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **November 10, 2010 — MC Birthday**
- **November 17, 2010 — Staff Meeting — 1730**



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