

Kettle Moraine Marine



January 2009

Detachment #1203

Vol V Issue 1

The Monthly Newsletter for Washington and Ozaukee County Marines.

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MARINE PRIDE

Do not let the bastards see you coming out prone

During a firefight Brad Kasal was wounded by seven 7.62 mm AK-47 rounds and hit by more than 40 pieces of hot shrapnel from a grenade while using his body to shield an injured fellow Marine. Kasal refused to quit fighting and is credited with saving the lives of several Marines during the U.S. assault on insurgent strongholds in Fallujah in November 2004.

By the time he was carried out of the house by LCpl. Chris Marquez and LCpl. Dan Shaffer, Kasal had lost approximately 60 percent of his blood.

The photograph of Kasal, taken by photographer Lucian Read — blood soaked and still holding his pistol and K-Bar knife — being helped from the building by fellow Marines, has become one of the iconic pictures of the war.

**Our next Meeting is at 0900 Saturday January 17th, 2009 at the Trenton Town Hall.
Located at 1071 State Hwy 33 East, West Bend WI 53095.**

Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held on October 18th, 2008
21 Members present

The Meeting was held at the Trenton Town Hall in West Bend, WI.

The Commandant called the meeting to order at 0900. The Sgt at Arms presented the Colors, and the Chaplain said the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: John Stern present
Sr. Vice Commandant: Glen Brewer present
Jr. Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole excused
Adjutant: Jason Waier present
Judge Advocate: Sean Rodriguez present

Paymaster: Roger Cross present
Chaplain: Paul Bollmann present
Sgt at Arms: Don Erdman present
Historians: Jason Waier present
" Jim Krudwig excused

Other Members in Attendance

Chantelois, Steve	Coulter, Dan	Kaczmarek, George	Keller, Charlie	Link, Paul
Mathews, Glen	Moericke, Chris (ex)	Moericke, Rollie	Montag, Fred	Schleif, Paul
Smith, Arthur	Straub, Hugo	Unertl, Ken	Wallace Bill	Wujcik, George

New Members/Guests

There were no new members or guests present.

Reading of the Minutes

Charlie Keller made a motion to accept the Minutes from the September Meeting as posted in the October Newsletter. Motion seconded by Paul Link. Motion passed.

Paymaster's Report

The Paymaster discussed the entries as shown on this month's Paymasters Report. He noted that no one has come forth yet with info pertaining to the unknown \$100 deposit from August. If anyone does know who made the deposit please see Roger Cross. He also made note that although today's attendance higher than it has been recently, it has still been dwindling in the past few months. Stay in touch with the Detachment's activities by coming to the monthly Meetings as your schedule permits. As the fundraising season is now over for 2008 the red polo shirts given to Members who worked a fundraiser are now available for anyone to purchase for \$15. The Paymaster also noted that since 2006 the amount of money raised during fundraisers has steadily gone down. In fact 2008 only saw half the amount of money that the Detachment raised in 2006. Let's hope 2009 is better.

Chaplain's Report

The Chaplain asked that he be given any info on ill Members or Members in distress. Nothing new to report this month.

Correspondence Received/Delivered

A request from the Joe Foss Institute for Veterans who are willing to present patriotic programs and bring their personal testimony to school classrooms and youth groups nationwide has been received. Members are encouraged to check it out at <http://www.jfiweb.org/foss> and see if they are interested in speaking.

Report of Standing Committees

Honor Guard: Nothing new to report.

Senior Vice Commandant: Nothing new to report.

Junior Vice Commandant: Will be out for some time as he is getting a knee replaced.

Flag History Presentation Team: The FHPT has a few upcoming events. Jim Krudwig will be contacting FHPT members as needed.

Care Packages: One Care Package was sent this past month.

VAVS: Nothing new to report.

PAO: Nothing new to report.

Birthday Ball: Roger Cross and Dan Coulter reported that the Ball planning is going full steam ahead. Dan Coulter noted that he had reservations of having a Ball this year as monthly attendance is declining and asked if there was enough commitment from the Detachment to have a Birthday Ball. A quick show of hands indicated that there will potentially be enough people going to make a Ball a success. That stated, Dan noted that the food, drinks, and cake are all set. There is no guest speaker as of this Meeting.

Newsletter: Members are reminded that input for the newsletter needs to be submitted to the editor by the 1st Monday of the month that it needs to be published in.

Color Guard: The Color and Honor Guard Commanders have taken time and gone out and looked at several styles of possible rain jackets. The one that was chosen is a clear soft plastic one that marching bands use. It was on hand for Members to see and be sized up. They cost \$8 each. If you are on either Color/Honor Guard please contact your respective Commander to give him the size you require. There are 3 Christmas Parades scheduled at this time. Germantown Nov 15th, Grafton Nov 29th, and West Bend Nov 30th. A minimum of six Marines per parade is required to form a squad. If enough Marines can not be mustered the Detachment will have to back out of that particular parade. Please contact Charlie Keller with questions. There was some discussion regarding the North Shore Det. and whether they would be marching in any of the same parades. Charlie Keller stated he would contact them and find out.

Quartermaster: Paul Schlieff reported that he has ordered a total of 15,000 roses from Green Valley Enterprises in Beaver Dam for future Detachment activities. Paul thanked those Members that turned in the Inventory Sheets that were enclosed in the Newsletter. If a Member has Detachment gear but was unable to fill out the gear roster please call Paul Schlieff. He is working an updated gear inventory.

Adjutant: Andrew Moericke's annual dues date is in Oct.

Old Business

The Commandant contacted SATO Travel in regards to Mary Baier to see if she has booked a flight to see her son's graduation from Boot Camp in San Diego at the end of October. After confirming that she has booked a flight, and that her son will be graduating, the Commandant authorized a check be written to her as voted on at the September Meeting. The check will be mailed following this Meeting. Dan O'Toole has been in contact with Ozaukee County CVSO Ken Brown, who is in charge of the WWII Freedom Flights serving southeastern Wisconsin. There was a Marine veteran signed up, but has since passed away leaving the seat available again. If there any interested WWII Marines or Navy Corpsman wishing to take part of the flight they need to contact Ken Brown at (262) 238-8326.

New Business

There is a 24 year old Marine that is terminally ill with cancer. He is an Iraqi Freedom Veteran and looking for a laptop that he could use while staying at the VA Hospital in Milwaukee. Paul Bollmann stated he has a laptop that this Marine could use. The Commandant, and Paul will deliver the laptop as soon as they can get the logistics of when and where they can deliver it to him. Former area Marine Corps recruiter Tim Hall has recently pleaded guilty to forcing a female recruit to have sex with him on the floor of a recruiting station in Oshkosh, and to kissing a second recruit. He is serving four months in prison, after which he will be dishonorably discharged from the Marine Corps. This has left his wife of seven years and two children scrounging for basic needs. Sgt Major Hertz, along with the recruiters under his command have started a fundraising/food drive to help the family out until he is released in December. As Marines, many of the Members present at the Meeting were disturbed/angered by the actions of this individual, but at the same time agreed that his wife and children should not suffer because of his lack of good judgment. Dan Coulter made a motion to donate \$200 for Nov and \$200 for Dec to Sgt Major Hertz which who will then turn the money into "gift cards" for a local grocery store. The Hall family will be able to use them at that store, in lieu of cash. Motion seconded by Rollie Moericke. Motion passed. The family will have a long struggle ahead of them after his release, until then there are Marines taking care of their own or this case a Marine Corps family. The storage locker is getting to be a little disorganized and cluttered with Det gear. If anyone has spare shelving units available and would like to donate them please contact John Stern. The old cement flag bases are also outdated and have not been used in years. With no objections from the Members Fritz Montag volunteered to take them.

Good of the League

Several Members noted that attendance has been declining the last few months. Every month new things come up, which requires your input. Please be sure to come to the monthly Meetings and help guide your Detachment. Glen Brewer reminded everyone that the USS Freedom was built in Manitowoc and will be commissioned in Milwaukee Nov 8th at 10am. The Vietnam Veterans "Moving Wall" will be in Delafield Oct 16-20.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to be conducted, the Commandant gave the order to close the Meeting at 1016. The Sgt at Arms retired the Colors, and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The Commandant thanked all for attending and asked that they secure new members. The Members present then sang the Marine Hymn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Waier, Adjutant

Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held on December 20th, 2008
16 Members present

The Meeting was held at the Trenton Town Hall in West Bend, WI.

The Commandant called the meeting to order at 0900. The Sgt at Arms presented the Colors, and the Chaplain said the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: John Stern present
Sr. Vice Commandant: Glen Brewer present
Jr. Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole present
Adjutant: Jason Waier present
Judge Advocate: Sean Rodriguez present

Paymaster: Roger Cross present
Chaplain: Paul Bollmann present
Sgt at Arms: Don Erdman present
Historian: Jason Waier present

Other Members in Attendance

Coulter, Dan	Fleischman, John	Heiman, Carl	Hertz, Wayne	Keller, Charlie
Schleif, Paul	Straub, Hugo	Wallace Bill		

New Members/Guests

There were no new members or guests present.

Reading of the Minutes

There was no December issue of the Kettle Moraine Marine Newsletter. As such the Minutes from the October Meeting were not posted and could not be presented to the Membership. Both the Oct and Dec Minutes will be posted in the Jan Newsletter.

Paymaster's Report

There were 29 paying attendees at this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Detachment. Although attendance was down those that were able to attend noted they had a good time. Several bills and receipts were turned in at the Meeting so an exact cost of the Ball to the Detachment could not be given, but a quick estimate is \$318.55. The Paymaster also went over all other transactions as listed on the Paymasters Report. With no other questions or comments Charlie Keller made a motion to accept it as written. Motion seconded by John Fleishman seconded. Motion passed. The Commandant thanked all those that helped make this year's Ball come together.

Chaplain's Report

Member Rollie Moericke has recently undergone cornea transplant surgery and hopes to back soon. Danny O'Toole was welcomed back this month after getting a knee replaced. Members are urged to contact Paul Bollman if they know of any Member or family member that is ill or in need of help. The Chaplain did have some extra Christmas trees available if anyone needed one.

Correspondence Received/Delivered

The Winter State Conference will be held in Oshkosh Jan 10-11. The Adjutant had info on hand for Members to read. The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society sent a Thank You note for the recent contribution made by the Det. Cumberland County Young Marines sent a Thank You note to all Veterans for serving our Country. Although the Kettle Moraine Marine did not place this year in the National Newsletter Competition, a Certificate of Participation was sent back to us for submitting our Newsletter. KetMorDet Member Wally Huf has requested a Membership Transfer to the Central Wisconsin Detachment, MCL. Charlie Keller made a motion to accept the transfer and pass on the request to Central Wisconsin. Motion seconded by Bill Wallace. Motion passed. The transfer request will be mailed out by the end of Dec.

Report of Standing Committees

Honor Guard: The Honor Guard has participated in 4 funerals since the last Meeting, and continues to show great commitment by its members. These are going to be short notice events, but thankfully enough Marines have been able to be mustered for them.

Senior Vice Commandant: Nothing new to report.

Junior Vice Commandant: Danny thanked everyone for the thoughts and calls while out recovering from surgery. If any Member was stationed at Camp Lejuene from the years 1957-1987 they are urged to get registered with the Camp Lejuene Water Study. You can log on at: <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clsurvey/index.html> for more info. A link will also be tied to the KetMorDet website.

Flag History Presentation Team: Nothing new to report.

VAVS: Nothing new to report.

PAO: Nothing new to report.

Newsletter: The Newsletter editor was sick during the beginning of Dec and was not able to get a Newsletter together.

Color Guard: The Color Guard participated in three Christmas Parades (Grafton, Germantown, and West Bend). A Thank you note and a \$100 stipend were received from the Germantown Parade Committee. As with all Det functions participation is down with Color Guard Members. Although there are a few Members that continue carrying the load for the Det, there are some uniformed Color Guard Members that have not participated at all or very rarely participate. Charlie Keller will be stepping down as the Color Guard Commander as he is leaving for Arizona for the winter and will not seek reinstatement when he gets back. It has been his pleasure to lead this position the last few years, but feels it is time for someone else to step forward and take the lead. He will be available to help and participate next year, but not take charge. Glen Brewer was the Commander for the Grafton Parade and thanked Hugo Straub, Fritz Montag, and Bill Wallace for participating. Grafton is also in the Northshore MCL Detachment's area of operation and was on hand. Although they may have had more expensive equipment, their performance was not as sharp, noted Glen Brewer. Marching in parades is one of the best and easiest ways of letting the community know we are here. Members noted that more needs to be done to not only get more participation, but get more coverage in the papers and getting the word out about when and where we will participate. Dan Coulter inquired as to how many Members are uniformed for the Color Guard. 15 members currently are uniformed for the Color Guard. The CG Commander said that a minimum of 5 but preferably 6 Members are needed for any Color Guard.

Quartermaster: Paul Schlieff will be going to Green Valley Enterprises in Beaver Dam and picking up Marine Roses that had been ordered a few months back. There was a question if the Det. had received the total bill as it seemed low. Since the Dec. Meeting it has been noted that not all the roses were ready, and there will still be an additional small amount due when the final batch is picked up. That will make up the discrepancy in what remains to be paid.

Adjutant: The Adjutant will be attending the State Conference in January and will report on it at the next Detachment Meeting.

Old Business

The Jr. Vice has been on medical leave and has not been able to follow up on the Honor Flight or the progress that has been made on the next flight. He will have more to report in January. Pvt. Hall has been released from the brig and is awaiting his discharge. Speaking for the family, Sgt Major Hertz stated that Ellie Hall was humbled and very thankful for everything that was done for her and her children while her husband was in the brig. The local recruiters raised funds to match the \$400 in cash donated by KetMorDet. Additionally, some canned and dry goods were donated for the family. It is an unfortunate situation but Marines take care of their own. The family did not go hungry because of your generosity. John VanWagonen, the Iraq war Veteran with terminal brain cancer, has received the laptop computer from Paul Bollmann. The Commandant has been trying to get info on his progress and possibly visit with him next time he is at the VA. No contact has been made with Mary Baier since KetMorDet sent her a donation in October to see her son graduate from boot camp.

New Business

Carl Heiman asked if the Detachment would be interested in helping send out care package items collected during a private party fundraiser. Specifics on what is needed could not be given, nor how much has been collected. Charlie Keller made a motion to not participate in this endeavor due to lack of information, it was not presented per protocol, and no real idea of what is needed could be given. Seconded by Dan O'Toole. Motion passed 10-2. Many Members felt this is a good cause, but there are too many grey areas and there are more questions than answers. If handled better this could have definitely been a positive thing. Members are reminded that if there is something they would like to present to the Detachment they are asked to present it at the Officers Call first, so that possible questions can be worked out and then it can be presented to the entire Detachment with a better working knowledge of the subject. This not only saves time during the Meeting, but keeps the Detachment from "shooting from the hip" and hoping for the best.

Good of the League

Several Members noted that attendance has been declining the last few months. Every month new things come up, which requires your input. Please be sure to come to the monthly Meetings and help guide your Detachment. Sgt Major Hertz stated that the Marine Corps has been achieving its recruiting levels consistently, and in fact are now able to be enlist better qualified people to be future Marines. John Fleischmann thanked Dan Coulter and Hugo Straub for their help during the Brat Fry back in August.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to be conducted, the Commandant gave the order to close the Meeting at 1016. The Sgt at Arms retired the Colors, and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The Commandant thanked all for attending and asked that they secure new members. The Marine Hymn was sung and the Meeting was closed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Waier, Adjutant

KETMORDET OFFICER REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2009

In order to expedite the regular monthly meeting, all officers and standing committee chairs are afforded the opportunity to provide their input to the Newsletter by the first Monday of each month. Members are also welcome to submit something. This will enable all Members to review items of interest and reduce discussion at the meetings. Additionally, it provides any Member who is unable to make it to a regular meeting, the opportunity to remain abreast of current Detachment activities. Any submission may be edited and use depends on available space.

COMMANDANT JOHN STERN REPORTS:

Honor Guard: Since last reported the detachment's Honor Guard participated in services for:

8 November 2008 Warren Heckner with Marines Erdman, Heiman, Krause, Montag, Stern, and Straub participating.

17 November 2008 Theodore Bruesch with Marines Brewer, Keller, Montag, Stern, Straub, and Wallace participating.

14 December 2008 Marine Robert Sanders with Marines Erdman, Keller, Montag, Schlieff, Stern, and Wallace participating.

Support the Troops Packages: Since last reported the detachment sent 2 packages to a SPC. Wood whose name was submitted by Marine Heiman on behalf of SPC. Wood's mother, Rose and SPC. Jesse Murphy whose name was submitted by detachment member Marine Ken Unertl. In addition I assisted Marine Heiman in the packing and mailing of 20 additional packages to local servicemen and women. Items sent and postage was paid for as a result of a "Support the Troops" drive sponsored by Marine Heiman and Rusty' Pub. Marines, remember I need **ALL** of the following information before sending packages. Name and full address of recipient. Name of the person and relationship submitting the request. And finally an e-mail address to determine rotation date and any personal needs. As of December I have been utilizing the larger flat rate box for shipments. The new box allows the detachment can ship 50% more stuff in each box. As long as the destination is an APO/FPO the cost is only \$10.25 compared to the old cost of \$9.80.

Notes from the troops: None received since last reported.

Fund Raising: Concluded on at the Friday, September 26th Miller Park event. The detachment thanks all Marines who donated their time and energy in these events.

I wish to sincerely thank the detachment for all the support and encouragement which you have given me during my past two years as your Commandant. We've had some "bumps along the way" which I hope we all have all learned from and made us stronger as a detachment. As I leave the post of Commandant I encourage all Marines to think about accepting a leadership and pledge you my full support.

SR VICE COMMANDANT GLEN BREWER: Nothing reported.

JR VICE COMMANDANT DANNY O'TOOLE: Nothing reported.

JUDGE ADVOCATE SEAN RODRIGUEZ: Nothing new to report but wanted to thank the membership for all they have done over the past year. Hope to see you soon.

ADJUTANT JASON WAIER REPORTS:

Marines, Happy New Year! I hope this coming year will be a prosperous and fulfilling year for both you and our Detachment. With elections right around the corner I encourage each and every one of you to think about what the Detachment means to you and ask "has it been what you hoped it would be?" If you cannot honestly say "yes it is everything I hoped it would be" I appeal that you come forward and submit your name for any of the Officers positions and work to make it what you envisioned, what the Marine Corps League should be. I have been an Officer, either appointed or elected, since the Detachment was chartered. As time goes on I see my own vision for the Detachment. I would like to take on other endeavors within the Detachment and as such hope that there is a hard charger out there willing to take on the role as Adjutant and help lead the Detachment into the future. I urge you to not wait until the new Commandant needs to appoint someone to this job or any other, but to be proactive and volunteer and lead from the front.

Membership Dues: Gil DeLaurier (Feb), Paul Link (Dec), Jerry Lorenz (Jan), Brian Rahn (Jan), Doug Smith (Nov). If you are listed here you should either be watching the mail for your yearly renewal notice from National HQ MCL, or have already received it and hopefully only misplaced it. Either way you can pay your dues at the next monthly Meeting (Jan 17th).

Birthdays: I would like to wish: George Kaczmarek, Danny O'Toole, & Cal Racine Happy Birthday.

PAYMASTER ROGER CROSS: Nothing reported.

QUARTERMASTER PAUL SCHEIF REPORTS: Nothing reported.

CHAPLAIN PAUL BOLLMAN REPORTS:

Now that we are in the New Year, There are challenges that we must face and overcome. Our Faith and will help in Deciding the decisions of getting involved in the running of our detachment! That is everyone's obligation to get involved! You, the members of our organization, need to decide how you will become active in the activities by either joining a committee or running for a leadership position, make an effort to attend meetings and functions. Prayer and discussions with our mates will allow us to carry our responsibilities to our fellow members and ourselves. It is up to us and with God's help to keep our organization solvent for another year. The problem is that there are fewer Members attending meetings, assisting in fundraising, assisting in accepting or volunteering for positions with in the Detachment for the following year. It's up to us now or gradually the Detachment will disappear. Think about nominations for the Detachment officers that are up for election and volunteer or nominate someone who will keep us going for another year. God Bless each one of you and your families for the next year. If there are any problems or concerns please call me at 1-262-628-0469

COLOR GUARD COMMANDER CHARLES KELLER REPORTS:

The Color Guard was very busy in the month of November.

Nov 8th	Marine Corps Ball
Nov 15th	Germantown Christmas Parade
Nov 29th	Grafton Christmas Parade
Nov 30th	West Bend Christmas Parade

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE Marines who faithfully participated during this past year.

We constantly receive rave compliments' regarding our professionalism and how the Marine Corps Color Guard is and asset to the parade.

WELL DONE, MARINES.

FLAG HISTORY PRESENTATION TEAM COMMANDER JIM KRUDWIG REPORTS:

Congratulations go out to all of the KetMorDet Members who participated in Flag History Presentations during 2008. Thanks for putting in the extra time for this valuable public service.

Six recent FHP's were conducted as follows:

Oct 29th - Kewaskum Elementary School with 100+ viewers present. Participating FHP Team Members were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Fritz Montag, Rollie Moericke, Hugo Straub and Bill Wallace.

Nov 10th - Good Shepherd WI Lutheran Elementary School, West Bend, with 100+ viewers. FHP Team Members were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Fritz Montag, Ken Unertl, and Bill Wallace.

Nov 11th - Sussex Senior Center with 30 viewers. FHP Team Members were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Fritz Montag, Hugo Straub, and Bill Wallace.

Nov 13th - Beechwood Rest Home with 30 viewers. FHP Team Members were: Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Rollie Moericke, Fritz Montag, Hugo Straub and Ken Unertl.

Nov 20th Evening - Cub Scouts of McLane Elementary School, West Bend with 100+ viewers. FHP Team Members were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Hugo Straub, and Bill Wallace.

Nov 26th - Germantown Elementary School with 100+ viewers. FHP Team Members were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, George Kaczmarek, Jim Krudwig, and Ken Unertl.

A FHP has been tentatively scheduled for up to 300 viewers at Badger Middle School on Feb 24th. Queries about FHP's have also come from the Waukesha Continental Chapter of the DAR, St Peters School, Slinger, and the Theresa Lions Club. The East Castle Nursing facility on the lake side of Milwaukee expressed a late interest in a FHP for Veterans Day. We already had a heavy schedule of FHP's that week in and around Washington County so I referred them to the Badger MCL Det in Milwaukee and the Northshore MCL Det. Have not heard if those Dets. filled that request.

A STORY THAT SHOULD WARM THE HEARTS OF WISCONSIN MARINES.....

Excerpted From the Los Angeles Times article by Tony Perry on January 2, 2009

Marines buy cows for Iraqi widows

As American forces work to revive Iraq's tattered farming economy, they seem to have found an effective new weapon. Cows.

At the suggestion of an Iraqi women's group, the Marine Corps recently bought 50 cows for 50 Iraqi widows in the farm belt around Fallouja, once the insurgent capital of war-torn Anbar province. The cow purchase is seen as a small step toward reestablishing Iraq's once-thriving dairy industry, as well as a way to help women and children hurt by the frequent failure of the Iraqi government to provide the pensions that Iraqi law promises to widows. The early sign is that the program is working. Widows, many with no other income, have a marketable item to sell, as well as milk for their children. Although Iraqis, particularly women, are often reluctant to participate in an American effort, the cows were immediately popular.

"It was an easy sell," said Maj. Meredith Brown, assigned to the Marines' outreach program for Iraqi women. The idea, proposed by members of the Women's Cultural Center in Fallouja, at first met with resistance from U.S. military officers and civilian officials involved in aid programs for Anbar. Nothing in their training provided guidance in haggling for livestock. But those objections quickly evaporated when Maj. Gen. John Kelly, the top Marine in Iraq, signaled his support, Brown said. The Iraqis now refer to their animals as Kelly's Cows. Though Kelly's support may have been based on gut instinct, the need to beef up Iraq's badly broken dairy industry was argued in a Nov. 25 report by Land O'Lakes Inc.

The Minnesota cheese-and-butter company was hired by the Marine Corps to examine the Iraqi dairy industry. Its 38-page report, based on field research in the fall by two Land O'Lakes dairy specialists, concluded that there was enormous growth potential for the industry in a milk-drinking, cheese-eating nation that can locally produce enough milk to satisfy only 5% of the demand. The study also pointed out that, even in Iraqi farm families with able-bodied adult males, much of the work is left to women: "Women milk the cows, bring feed and fodder to the animals and are supported by their children." Though Americans know Land O'Lakes best from its products in the dairy case, the company has been involved in 150 development projects in 70 countries in recent decades. Among them was a dairy project in Afghanistan after the Taliban was toppled in the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

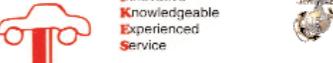
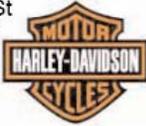
Its report cited a litany of woes besetting the Iraqi dairy industry: facilities damaged by war, looting or neglect; a lack of good feed; a dearth of veterinarians and the initiative-numbing effect of three decades of centralized planning under Saddam Hussein. "Every link in the value chain was broken, but we found that every link is fixable," said Zaheer Baber, regional director for Asia and the Middle East for Land O'Lakes' international development division. The report suggested several construction projects for U.S. military and civilian officials to consider funding, possibly with the Iraqi government. One idea was for a new dairy owned and operated by the Women's Cultural Center, which would be a bold move in a male-dominated society. As a first phase, Marines and Land O'Lakes specialists are discussing a milk-collection facility run by the women to help them learn accounting, marketing and other skills.

The cows-for-widows program is just the latest of several initiatives by the U.S. to help Iraq's dairy and beef industries. Some efforts have been individual, such as buying a replacement cow in 2004 for a farmer near Ramadi who complained that his animal was killed in the crossfire between Marines and insurgents. Other initiatives have been larger in scale, such as inspections of herds by Army veterinarians. Also, the U.S. is taking the lead in the rehabilitation of a milk-collection center in Fallouja. And Army personnel and advisors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture met this year with farmers at a dairy in the Wehida region south of Baghdad that once had 8,000 cows but now can barely handle a fraction.

In Anbar, two factors drew the Marines to the cow purchase: It was small-scale and it was suggested by the Iraqis. The Marines have learned that big-ticket projects, or those imposed by the U.S. on the Iraqis without local support, start with two strikes. The Marines began buying cows in November at a livestock market at Saqlawiyah. Of the 50 cows, 35 were pregnant and 10 already had calves, which went along with their mothers. The five others were taken to a laboratory for artificial insemination. Brown put the program cost so far at \$58,000. To qualify for a free cow, each widow had to sign an agreement not to slaughter or sell the animal and instead to use the milk as a marketable item or for the family.

The project is not entirely altruistic. The Marines believe that widows with at least some economic resources are less likely to join Al Qaeda to carry out suicide attacks in exchange for a promise that their children will be cared for after the women are gone. "If she's desperate enough, she just might put on that [suicide] vest or drive that truck" full of explosives, Maj. Brown said.

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Be sure to stay in touch with the Detachment at www.ketmordet.com



KetMorDet Member Jim Krudwig snapped this shot recently while on vacation in Philadelphia, PA. No explanation is needed for real Marines. Semper Fi

Oct 29th

The Flag History Presentation Team conducts one of its programs for the students of Kewaskum Elementary School. Participating Members



were: Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Fritz Montag, Rollic Moericke, Hugo Straub, and Bill Wallace.



Members Carl Heiman, Don Erdman, George Kascmarek, Bill Wallace, and Jim Krudwig line up prior to a FHP at one of the local schools.



Members Fritz Montag, Carl Heiman, and Don Erdman finish the flag folding portion of a FHP program.



The Cub Scouts were treated to a FHP at McLane Elementary School on Nov 20th. Don Erdman, Carl Heiman, Jim Krudwig, Hugo Straub, and Bill Wallace participated.