



The



Kettle

Moraine

Marine

March 2011 Serving the Kettle Moraine area since 2005 Vol VII Issue 3

Commandant: Jim Ramage Kettle Moraine Det, MCL#1203 Editor: Jason Waier

*Thank you, for helping us
help others!*



"Cell Phones for Soldiers" drive has been a huge success!

See more on page 6

**Our next Meeting will be held: 9am, Saturday March 19th, 2011!
It will be conducted at the Trenton Town Hall, located at 1071 State Hwy 33 East, West Bend.
Hope to see you there!**

**2010-2011
Detachment
Officers**

Commandant

Jim Ramage
(262) 242-9823

**Sr. Vice
Commandant**

Danny O'Toole
(262) 255-3514

**Jr. Vice
Commandant**

John Stern
(262) 297-1325

Judge Advocate

Charlie Keller
(262) 389-0333

Adjutant

Paul Schlieff
(262) 338-4911

Paymaster

Roger Cross
(262) 675-6965

Chaplain

George Wujcik
(262) 338-8426

Sgt at Arms

Bill Wallace
(262) 338-3525

Historian

Jason Waier
(262) 623-1417

Public Affairs

Jason Waier
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Honor Guard Cmdr

John Stern
(262) 297-1325

Color Guard Cmdr

Jim Ramage
(262) 242-9823

Newsletter Editor

Jason Waier
(262) 623-1417

Flag History Team

George Wujcik
(262) 338-8426

Newsletter Highlights

Cover: Cell Phones for Soldiers collection, see more info on page 6

Page 3: Minutes from the February Meeting

Page 4: "Rightsizing the Marine Corps"

Page 5: Medals of Valor

Page 6: Officer Reports

Page 7: Veterans Affairs report, and the M16A2 gets retired

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UPCOMING DETACHMENT EVENTS (Subject to change)

- Mar 19 0900 Detachment Monthly Meeting with Officer Elections & By-Laws amendment vote**
- Mar 26-27 Dept of Wisconsin Spring Conference**
- Apr 16 0900 Detachment Monthly Meeting**
- May 23 1900 Detachment Monthly Meeting held at MPTC in West Bend- room TBD**
- Aug Seventh Annual Fisher House Golf Outing in Menomonee Falls**
- Sep 10 Second Annual House of Harley/Fisher House Benefit Ride in Milwaukee**

NEWSLETTER INFO

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THE KETTLE MORaine MARINE Newsletter is normally published prior to monthly scheduled meetings for the information and use of Detachment Members. Articles and letters are invited but the Editor retains the right to edit any submission. Submit typed materials or photographs marked for the Newsletter to the Editor by the first Monday of the month using either e-mail: jwaier@charter.net or snail mail to 2235 Sylvan Way Apt #6 West Bend, WI 53095. Annual donation for ads is \$100 for a single block and \$175 for a double. Half or full page ads are also available. Editor: Jason Waier (262) 623-1417

See the Newsletter and other Detachment info at www.ketmordet.com

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**Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held February 19, 2011
17 Members Present**

The meeting was held at the Trenton Town Hall, West Bend, Wisconsin
The Commandant called the meeting to order at 0900. Sergeant at arms posted the colors, and the Chaplain opened the meeting with a prayer, the bible is open.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: Jim Ramage
Sr. Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole (ex)
Jr. Vice Commandant: John Stern
Adjutant: Paul Schleif
Judge Advocate: Charlie Keller (ex)

Paymaster: Roger Cross
Chaplain: George Wujcik
Sergeant at Arms: Bill Wallace
Historian: Jason Waier (ex)

Other Members Attending

Steve Chantelois, Carl Heiman, George Kaczmarek, Gil Lucka, Rollie Moericke, Fritz Montag, Barry Oelerich, Doug Smith, Hugo Straub, and Ken Unertl were also in attendance.

New Members and Guests

There were no new or prospective members, or guests, attending today.

Reading of the Minutes

Ken Unertl motioned, with Hugo seconding the motion, to accept the minutes as published in last month's newsletter. The motion passed.

Paymasters Report

Roger reported that the newsletter ad income has kept us going over the last month as several advertisers renewed or signed up. Thanks Jason, for the quality newsletter you continue to produce, it's a lot of work!

The long-outstanding check from Allenton Little League has been cancelled. Speaking of checking, we still have our account at Chase. When they learned we were considering moving our assets, they are now trying to work with us so we can keep things there. Let's hope that works out for us.

The detachment should know that a check made out to Roger (our paymaster) on the report was issued for the purchase of 10 Cabelas gift certificates. Roger picks these up at his work, and that is the reason for the self-reimbursement, which is hereby noted in the minutes of the detachment.

A motion was made by George Kaczmarek and seconded by Bill Wallace to accept the paymaster report-the motion passed.

Roger also reported that our tax paperwork for last year has been filed with the IRS as of this month.

Another thing Roger has been working on (he has been busy) is the buying of uniform items from Navy/Marine Corps exchange. When the detachment was originally set-up our account there was under the name of a member who is no longer with us. We need to send them DD214s for members of the detachment that we want authorized to purchase from them. It turns out that changing things like this is a very political process and not easy to do. A well-done is sent your way Roger for the time involved in taking care of this business, thank-you!

Chaplains Report

Danny is doing better after his heart surgery. He is up-and-around, and rests when he needs to. He hopes to be participating in detachment activities again soon.

Continued on Page 8

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Marines: Rightsizing into "middleweight" force

BY JEANETTE STEELE, UNION-TRIBUNE
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 3, 2011



After 10 years of acting as America's second land army, the U.S. Marine Corps will be slimmed down to "middleweight" fighter status, its leader says.

Now, details from an internal Marine review of forces offer a glimpse at how the leaner fighting machine will look.

As the Corps goes from 202,000 to 187,000 people after the end of fighting in Afghanistan, the trimming will hit virtually every major command - and likely will be felt in San Diego County, the West Coast hub for Marine ground and air forces.

"It's going to affect San Diego to an extent," said Andrew Lubin, independent defense analyst and author of books on the Marines.

"The cuts in the artillery and infantry will be across the board. I don't know what regiments they are going to cut back, and neither do they," he said.

"But if you look at the Marine Corps, it's roughly 40 percent at Camp LeJeune, 40 percent at Camp Pendleton, 20 percent in Okinawa, (Japan.) You figure it should go approximately in that ratio."

Combat ground forces will be thinned out, including cutting infantry battalions

from 27 to 24, cannon artillery battalions from nine to seven and armored companies from 10 to eight, according to information recently released by the Marine Corps' Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va.

Camp Pendleton is home to the 1st Marine Division, the oldest, largest, and most decorated division of the Corps.

This 22,000-person group has provided many of the "grunts," a term of honor to Marines, who fought in Iraq and now Afghanistan. Its regiments date back to 1911.

In the aviation realm, the Corps plans to eliminate four headquarters for support units, including one in the reserves.

Miramar Marine Corps Air Station is home of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, including Marine Wing Support Group 37, led by a colonel.

Today's logistics groups will be flattened and parts will be reassigned to infantry and expeditionary units.

Camp Pendleton houses the 1st Marine Logistics Group, with 14,000 people. They handle maintenance, supply, engineering and food for the fighting troops.

Despite these cuts, the Marines also plan to increase two small specialty sectors - "cyber" jobs by 67 percent and special operations positions by 44 percent.

The Marine Corps has been reevaluating its shape since at least last August, when Defense Secretary Robert Gates gave a speech in San Francisco saying that he had called for a "force structure review."

"The perception being that they have become too heavy, too removed from their expeditionary, amphibious roots and the unique skill sets those missions require," Gates said, adding

that some battle-hardened Marines had never actually stepped foot on a boat.

Fast forward to last month, when new Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos in another San Francisco speech described how he sees his Corps shaping up.

Amos said he is going to "rightsize" his force, likening it to a middleweight boxer who can push his weight up or down based on training and need.

"Larger than special operations forces, but lighter and more expeditionary than conventional Army units, we engage and respond quickly - often from the sea - with enough force to carry the day upon arrival," he said.

Amos said his Marines got used to a "culture of plenty" during the past decade of war, but added that he is rededicating them to "our frugal roots." "Marines have historically been known as 'the Penny Pinchers,'" Amos said. "At the end of the day, Congress and the American people know that the Marine Corps is a value and that we only ask for what we truly need."

The nation decided to bulk up the Marine Corps in response to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This subtraction of 15,000 - which won't begin until after troops return from Afghanistan, possibly as late as 2015 - puts the service closer to where it was a decade ago, said John Pike, founder of Globalsecurity.org, who downplayed the significance of the shifts outlined. Prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Marines numbered 172,600.

"The overall drawdown in head count is predictable," Pike said. "All the other changes are in the ballpark of the normal churn that any large is always experiencing."

The final Marine force structure review report is expected in July.

Taken from a forwarded e-mail

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Military honors two for valor with Silver Stars

Medals awarded to Marine corporal posthumously and Navy corpsman

BY J. HARRY JONES, UNION-TRIBUNE



Navy petty Officer 3rd. Class Peter A. Gould has a Silver Star Medal pinned on him by Marine Lt. Col. Fridrik Fridriksson for heroism in Afganistan. At far right is Marine Sgt. Major Scott Samuels. At left in sunglasses is Stacia Harris, wife of Marine Cpl. Larry D. Harris Jr. who received the Silver Star Medal posthumously for for the same incident. At far left is Bruce Merriweather, the father of Larry D. Harris.

CAMP PENDLETON - A Marine corporal and a Navy corpsman were awarded the military's third-highest honor for valor, the Silver Star, during an emotional ceremony March 4th on the parade grounds at Camp Horno on Camp Pendleton.

Cpl. Larry D. Harris Jr.'s family accepted his medal posthumously, while Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter A. Gould was in attendance, the scars on his neck and face visible.

It was July 1 of last year when the two were part of a squad of 17 men crossing an open field in the Helmand province of southern Afghanistan. About 40 Taliban insurgents attacked them from nearby woods.

"We were taking fire from three sides," Gould, 24, who grew up in Syracuse, Kan., said in an interview before the medal ceremony. "We were split up and trying to regroup."

After the team's machine-gunner was hit in the leg, Gould and several others went to pull him to safety. Gould bandaged the Marine's thigh wound as the gunfire grew heavier. The order was given to evacuate the wounded

Marine. Harris, 25, of Thornton, Colo., and Gould lifted the injured serviceman to his feet and carried him down an uneven path for about 100 yards.

For a moment, Gould said, he let go of the wounded Marine and moved ahead to look for another path.

Seconds later, Harris stepped on an improvised explosive device. Harris' body absorbed the majority of the explosion. Gould was severely injured on the right side of his neck and face.

"I remember flipping through the air. My whole body kind of went numb and I couldn't hear anything or see anything, but I knew we had just got hurt pretty bad," Gould said.

As blood poured from his neck, Gould instructed a Marine to apply pressure. "He was able to stuff enough gauze down my neck to keep me alive."

According to the Silver Star citation: "Instructing a Marine to stop the bleeding coming from his neck with direct pressure and while still under effective fire, (Gould) turned his attention to his wounded comrades, directing appropriate steps in assessing injuries and rendering lifesaving aid, to include the application of tourniquets and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. His inspirational actions and mental toughness under intense enemy fire led directly to saving at least one Marine's life that day."

Harris' injuries were fatal, but he too saved the life of the first wounded Marine. "By his bold leadership, wise judgment and complete dedication to duty, Cpl. Harris reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States naval service," the citation reads.

Lt. Col. Fridrik Fridriksson called both

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men heroes. "It's an absolute honor to stand before you," he said, speaking to Gould and Harris' family just a few feet away.

Harris' wife, Stacia Harris, wore his dog tag and wedding ring around her neck Friday. Following the ceremony, she said her husband cherished the Marine Corps - that it was his dream job.

"He loved the people he worked with and was excited about this deployment."

Marine Sgt. Major Scott Samuels presents a plaque to Lora and Bruce Merriweather, parents



of Marine Cpl. Larris Harris, Jr., for the Silver Star Medal for heroism in Afganistan where Harris was killed in action. At right is Stacia Harris, wife of Larry Harris, Jr.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd. Class Peter A. Gould shakes hands with Marine Major General Michael Regner after the ceremony where Gould



received the Silver Star Medal for heroism in Afganistan. The man in the background is Peters father Joe Gould. Regner is the Commanding Officer of the 1st. Marine Division.

Article copied from a forwarded e-mail.

Report of Officers and Committee Chairs

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 Jim Ramage reports: Nothing reported

Jr. Vice Commandant John Stern reports:

Honor Guard:

The Honor Guard was last activated 28 December 2010. Since its inception the detachment's Honor Guard has rendered military honors for 31 veterans throughout Ozaukee and Washington counties.

Support the Troops Packages:

1 package weighing 8 pounds 15 ounces was mailed on 4 March to John Fleischman's nephew Matthew McCabe. To date the detachment has sent 695.4 pounds of items to servicemen and women currently serving in harm's way. Marines, I respectfully ask that all of you solicit names from clergy, friends, and family to which the detachment can show their support. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
John W. Stern

Adjutant Charlie Keller:

Nothing new to report.

George Wujcik reports:

The flag history team made a presentation to the Masonic Lodge of

Hartford Wi. at the Schmur Center on Feb .14 th Valentines day. The team of Ken Unertl, Carl Heiman, George Kaczmarek, Fritz Montag, and George Wujcik and spouses were treated to coffee and cake and given each a real rose. The cake bore a Marine insignia surrounded by roses. It was beautiful and tasted good especially with the ice cream topping. The Lodge members had favorable comments, especially about the folding ceremony which some had said they have never heard the 13th steps to the folding before and were impressed.

Another flag ceremony was planned for the VFW of Germantown on the 20th. but had to be cancelled due to the winter storm that Sunday which dumped 15th inches of snow on the area. Maybe another time it will happen without a storm interfering.

George Wujcik

Historian/Editor Jason Waier reports:

First I would like to wish Paul Bollmann, Barry Oelerich, & Robert Ott a very Happy Birthday!

The Detachment has discussed now for several months the idea of amending the By-Laws in regards to elections. This month we will vote on the idea. In order to pass this amendmet needs to have a simple majority of the voting membership. Currently the Detachment is carrying 46 members on its rolls. Therefore a simple majority would mean 24 members must agree to pass this amendment. Same as we currently see daily in the news on how important your votes count in local/national elections so does your vote count here. Looking at how the attendance at the monthly meetings has been, we have averaged about 16 people per month. So please go back and re-read the last couple of months of Minutes if you are unsure about what the amendment is about and take the time to make your voice heard. Whether it is

to approve or disapprove the amendment. Your vote counts.

Just as important if not even more so this month we will also hold Officer Elections. Normally voting has taken place from 0845-0900 when the meeting is opened for business, roll call is taken and then a short recess is taken to count the votes, the meeting is opened back up and the findings announced. This month I am sure things will be handled a little different so that the By-Laws amendment can be handled first and then elections can be taken care of so be sure to be a couple minutes early and be patient as things get going.

Remember that you **CAN** mail in your **SIGNED** By-Law amendment voting card, **BUT** you **MUST** be present to vote for your 2011-2012 Officers.

Cell Phones for Soldiers has been a great success. To date 116 phones have been collected! My personal goal was to collect 200 phones, so until then I will keep on collecting phones and sending them in. I am not sure exactly how many minutes each phone is worth, but if you were to ask a family member of someone overseas what it is worth to be able to talk to a loved one so far away I am sure that would say "priceless". Please keep bringing in those old phones. I will be happy to collect them either at a meeting, or at my workplace - Gordie Boucher Ford in West Bend. Thank you for your support!



116 phones and counting! Please keep 'em coming!

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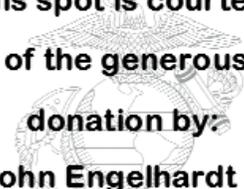
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Vets panel chairman: protect benefits, cut fat

By Rick Maze - Staff writer

The new Republican chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee pledged March 1st to protect benefits and services for veterans.

But Rep. Jeff Miller, a five-term congressman representing a Florida Panhandle congressional district that includes Naval Air Station Pensacola and Eglin Air Force Base, said that's not the same as promising not to cut the Veterans Affairs Department budget.

In an interview, Miller pledged that certain things are not on the table. "It is not my intent to cut benefits," he said, but added: "There is fat in the VA budget. I am tasked with trying to find it."

Miller said he has asked military and veterans groups to help him find places where VA is wasting money, but so far has not heard specifics.

It remains uncertain if cuts identified by Miller could be shifted to other veterans programs or would be eliminated from the VA budget in the name of deficit reduction.

There are places where spending increases are possible, he said. For example, he is willing to look at modifying a change in GI Bill benefits passed last year that would cut tuition and fee payments for some students attending private schools, and he wants to look at expanding newly authorized benefits for the caregivers of severely disabled veterans beyond the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans now covered.

He is not promising anything more than a closer look. "I would rather under-promise," Miller said.

Miller said he hopes to work with

veterans groups to come up with a plan for reducing the ever-growing backlog of pending disability claims.

"Throwing money and bodies at it, obviously, is not solving the problem," he said. "I don't think any one institution has the answer, but collectively, we have to solve the problem. There are too many disabled veterans out there caught in the system. We have people who are in need of their compensation, and two years of waiting may be too long."

VA officials have been promising that the claims backlog will begin dropping in 2012 but, for the moment, the problem seems to be getting worse. About 787,500 claims are pending today, 23,000 more than at the start of 2011, according to the VA's Feb. 28 workload report.

Over 361,000 of those claims have been pending for more than 125 days - 61,000 more long-delayed claims than were pending at the start of the year.



After more than 25 years of service as the primary training weapon at Marine Corps boot camp, the M16A2 rifle is heading for retirement.

The Corps is nearly finished with a one-for-one swap in which all 5.56mm M16A2 rifles at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and MCRD San Diego will be replaced with M16A4s. They were the last major commands to use the M16A2, although a few Reserve units and "low-priority supporting establishments" may not have received the M16A4 yet, Marine officials said.

The major difference between the two

weapons is the integrated rail system on the M16A4 that allows Marines to use a variety of optics and laser points in combat.

The transition has been ongoing since last summer, when recruits at San Diego were issued the M16A4. Marine Corps Systems Command, out of Quantico, Va., has sent 10,255 M16A4s to San Diego, and plans to equip Parris Island with 9,000, said Maj. Jody White, the individual weapons team lead in MARCORSSCOM'S infantry weapons program. Already, about 6,900 M16A4s have been sent to Parris Island, enough for all recruits to use the newer model.

The upgrade had been planned after Marines first started fielding the M16A4, around 2003. Still, it marks a cultural milestone for the Corps, which had taught prospective Marines at the boot camps with the M16A2 since 1985.

The M16A4s have not been essential at boot camp, where Marine leaders have been reluctant to introduce rifle combat optics. Instead, recruits are required to learn how to shoot with iron sights.

The swap to the M16A4 at boot camp will now make it easier to train recruits with optics, should Marine leaders decide to do so.

But in October, Marine leadership reinforced its intention to keep optics away from recruits.

Lt. Gen. George Flynn, deputy commandant for combat development and integration, said that now-retired Commandant Gen. James Conway did not want to change course and allow the RCO at boot camp.

Taken from the internet





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Continued from Page 3

Correspondence Received or Delivered

Dan Coulter sent the newsletter of the detachment he belongs to at his winter home in Arizona. The detachment is huge, with several hundred members. The newsletter is on the table for members to peruse as they wish. A thank-you card was received from Nathan Peplinski, one of our recent Eagle Scout award recipients.

Report of Standing Committees

Honor Guard: The honor guard has not participated in any funerals since our last meeting.
Junior Vice Commandant: John reported that he will be sending one care package in the near future.
PAO: Jason sent along a newsletter report. He received ad renewals from Aidan O'Reilly's Pub, Goemans Rapid Mart, Albiero Plumbing, Germantown Tire and Service, Bobs Main Street, Phillip Funeral Home, Miller Funeral Home and Coachwork Auto Body. Thank-you to all of these businesses for their support! In addition, at this time the newsletter is being shortened to eight pages to keep it affordable.

Unfinished Business

The term limit for officers in our by-laws will be changed from two years to four. This by-law change will be on the ballot for next month's elections for approval. July 27th is going to be Veterans Day at the County Fair. Fritz is looking into everything that this involves. There will be three celebrations with flag folding at 0900, 1200 and 1500. It is being investigated whether we could have a table or booth to show what our detachment does in the community and supporting the troops. We will certainly be participating in some way throughout the day's events.

New Business

With election of officers coming this next month, the following sheet of nominees was recognized:
 Commandant: Jim Ramage
 Jr Vice Commandant: John Stern
 Adjutant: Paul Schleif
 Sgt. At Arms: Bill Wallace
 Historian: Jason Waier
 Sr Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole and Gil Lucka
 Judge Advocate: Charlie Keller
 Paymaster: Roger Cross
 Chaplain: George Wujcik

I wish to thank all of the members who are willing to go around (again) for the detachment serving as an officer.

It was noted that the national web-site for the league has descriptions of all the officer positions if folks are more interested in running but don't know what the job entails.

Good of the League

Bowling for Marine Vets sponsored by our detachment is being looked at for King Pin on South Main in West Bend. The event would likely be held on a Saturday afternoon, as it's more family friendly and Marines could bring their families along. Three games would be paid for by the detachment per family. We would have a table set up where people could see what we do and sign-up for a discounted price. With this, our day at the fair and Little League exposure we have lots of good things going on.

George Kaczmarek noted how we are in decline with service organizations throughout society, with other organizations suffering declining attendance across the board. We are continuing to do what we can.

Jim noted that sadly a detachment in Kenosha turned in their charter recently. They just didn't have the membership or participation any longer to keep it going.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to conduct, the Commandant gave the order to close the meeting at 0945. The Sergeant at Arms retired the colors and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The Commandant thanked all members for attending. The Marine Hymn was sung in closing the meeting, and the Bible is closed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Paul Schleif, Adjutant