



# THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

Apr. May. Jun. 2021 Edition

## COMMANDANTS CORNER

Well here it is the first quarter of the year and it is starting off as predicted, COVID-19 is still the scourge that consumes our lives in most everything we do. With that being said we are starting to see cases decline and new predictions are promising. We all are still being cautiously optimistic.

This has not stopped us from going forward with the duties of our detachment and accomplishing what we need to do. We were able to maintain our meeting schedule and install our officers at the appropriate time. Other detachments are still struggling to hold meetings but it is a testimony to our membership that we are a functioning body.

So far the executive board has met and accomplished updating our by-laws; they will be presented to the detachment when the state Judge Advocate has approved them. Rifle inventory and detachment account audit has been completed as per our duties.

We are up to date with all the forms needed sent to the department to keep us in good standing; this is due to our adjutant/paymaster's diligent work. If you missed our meeting in February we had a treat from the Young Marines, there was a promotion to Lance Corporal for two of them and I was impressed with the bearing that these young men have. It was nice to see and gives me hope for our youth.

I am optimistic for the future with respect to putting our best foot forward in the community; hopefully we can get back to the work of what we have always done. Our Honor detail being able to get back to representing us locally is a key. The next challenge is the Rose campaign hopefully with things loosening up we can get back out to the public. We are known now at the Bethel Park food bank with volunteer work and hopefully we can expand that role.

Our communication with the membership continues to improve. Our communication officer is doing a fantastic job. Other changes on how to deliver information to the members that have difficulty making meetings are being sought. Although information is getting better there is still no replacing an in person meeting. Camaraderie is the backbone of our detachment.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. Keep the faith.

Semper Fi

Commandant Matt Popovich

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**YOUR  
ATTENDANCE !**

Would be most welcomed for you coming to a meeting and participating as a member for a brother and sister hood of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

**Monthly meetings are held at**

**2409 Bethel Church Road**

**Bethel Park, PA 15102**

**7:30 pm the first Wednesday of each month.**

If you know of a Marine who has not become a member of our Veterans Service Organization or require assistance in bringing them on board, please direct them to one of the Officers of our Detachment listed. We would like to have a conversation with them or bring them in as a guest.



**SEMPER**

**FIDELIS**

COMMANDANT

*Matt  
Popovich*



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

*Gary  
Woodside*



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

*Chuck  
Burrow*



ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER

*Joe  
Turba*



JUDGE ADVOCATE

*Shawn  
Kane*



SERGEANT AT ARMS

*Joe  
Spinnenweber*



CHAPLAIN

*Ralph  
Jedd*



SECRETARY

*Haya  
Eason*



# Keystone Young Marines



## KEYSTONE YOUNG MARINES



*Bettina  
Radcliff*

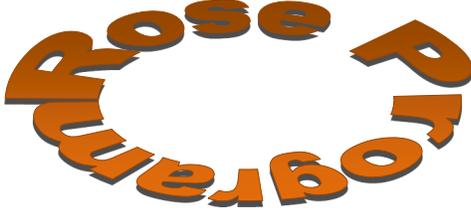
### CONGRAULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

These two Young Marine Brothers Dominic and Antonin Rocco were just promoted to LCPL at our last Detachment meeting in February and pinned by the Commandant, Matt Popovich, Sr. Vice Commandant, Gary Woodside, John Donley head Instructor for the Young Marines and Judge Advocate Shawn Kane.

A well deserved promotion as they and all Young Marines strive forward for self improvement and maintain the standards set before them and progress.



Even though we are in a pandemic, we are preparing for the gates to open and work with establishments in order to continue the program to assist in veterans needs and they are many. We reach out to those who are able to assist in any way possible.



For a contribution please send to:  
 Marine Corps League, Inc.  
 South Hills Detachment 726  
 P.O. Box 533  
 Bethel Park, PA 15102

No VETERAN should be left behind

## Bio of Adjutant/Paymaster Joe Turba

After graduating from South Hills High School in 1968 I took a two year Computer Programming Course at Connelly. I joined the Marine Corps July 29, 1970. I took my oath of enlistment at center field of Three Rivers Stadium along with 83 other future Marines as part of the Pittsburgh Pirate Platoon. This was to be the last Pirate Platoon to go to Parris Island. I did not finish the Pirate Platoon because of knee problems. I spent a week in Medical platoon. I got my EGA on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1970 and then went to Camp Geiger for ITR. I left ITR on the Marine Corps Birthday.

Thinking I would get into Computer Programming in the Marine Corps, which did not happen, instead I was sent to Radio Telegraph School in San Diego. (Class number RT 27) (MOS 2533). Reported into San Diego the first week of December and for a month was on Fire Watch duty until school started in January 1971. Radio Telegraph School included four weeks of Morse Code. After about the third week of Morse Code I swore I heard dit-dot coming through the heated pipes. I don't remember how many words I was able to take down for Morse Code as my final count but, I did come in first in typing with seventy words. Of course, the typewriter was a Mill (which was all caps), so no switching between caps and lower case. After completing school, our class received orders for Okinawa. The class in front of us had orders for Vietnam. Went home for ten days leave and then reported to Camp Pendleton. I spent about six weeks at Pendleton on guard duty.

Got to Okinawa July 11<sup>th</sup> 1971. Checking into my new company with two other Radio Operators, the Admin Chief asked if anyone could type and my arm went up. So, I was in Admin the rest of my time. During my time in Okinawa, I was sent to Subic Bay to take part in Air Naval Gunfire School since one of the classes had an opening and I was a Radio Operator by training. I left Okinawa in August 1972 and reported into Comm Support Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Comm Bn in September 1972.

Comm Support Company was just forming when I was given the position of Admin Chief. For some reason I decided to re-enlist early. I chose Quantico as my new station but then decided to stay at Camp Lejeune. I went on two Med cruises. The first one was in June of 1973 where I saw Malaga, Spain. Athens, Greece. Cannes, France, and Barcelona, Spain. The ship I was on was the USS Mt. Whitney (LCC-20). When we docked at Malaga, I was assigned Shore Patrol and during the patrol was suggested by someone to volunteer for Shore Patrol in Athens, which I did.

The second cruise was to Turkey in late September 1973. I was TAD to Comm Company because that Admin Chief said that he was not going to re-enlist. (While on the cruise he did re-enlist and became Battalion Admin Chief.) We were in Turkey for about a week. The Captain of the ship (SUMPTER, LST 1118) did not want to wait around and de-snare the equipment in Turkey, so he headed to Rota, Spain. Saturday morning (October 6, 1973) we woke up to the news that the Arabs had attack Israel and the Yom Kippur War had broken out. we were sitting off the coast of Sardinia awaiting orders on what to do next. A few days later we docked at Livorno, Italy where we de-snared the equipment at Camp Darby. After de-snaring, half of the Marines stayed on ship and patrolled the Mediterranean Sea and the other half stayed at Camp Darby. I was at Camp Darby and I was able to take the train down to Rome on two weekends. I figure I was this close to where my dad fought in World War II and I was going to see Rome. (A few years ago, I found some pictures of my dad in Rome. So, I may have walked in some of his steps.) We left Italy after Thanksgiving and headed back to the States.

In January 1974 I was then sent to Parris Island for Admin Chief School. The course was about three months. Getting back to my Comm Support, I was introduced to my new First Sergeant, just out of First Sergeant School (1stSgt TANT) (from the back hills of North Carolina and hated Yankees). The Battalion was in the middle of getting ready for a CG or IG inspection. I took over getting the office ready for the inspection, while my Corporal took care of the daily routine. To make things worse the office personnel was part of Drill portion of the inspection. Which meant we had to take time out of daily routine to practice Drill. About three weeks before the Inspection the 1stSgt suggested we put in night oil, which we were already doing. About two weeks before the Inspection, 1stSgt, looking at me, said "if we don't pass this Inspection someone is going to lose their stripes". So needless to say we did not hit it off after that. We did pass the Office Inspection with flying colors.

At one time (I think it was sometime in 1975) the Commandant of the Marine Corps made a statement about operating at 100% strength with 10% misfits, so the order went out to get rid of the misfits. The 1stSgt made it his job to get rid of the misfits in Comm Support Co. and most of the them were African American and/or from the north. The Commanding Officer (Capt. MILLER) went along with whatever the 1stSgt said, since the Capt. let the 1stSgt take over the control of the Company. I think the Captain went along with it because he was passed over for Major and was getting out. It was me who typed all the paper work. They were given General Discharges. Capt. WALKER got out and we got a new Commanding Officer (Capt. Mike SHUTTLEWORTH).

During the Bi-centennial of the Marine Corps Capt. SHUTTLEWORTH would share information he received in the mail and call to me and say "Hey, Joe come and look at this." Which I don't think sat well with 1stSgt TANT. 1stSgt TANT tried to take control of the Company just he had with Capt. MILLER but Capt. SHUTTLEWORTH would not have it. In December 1975 I went UA for about a week.



me an elbow in the stomach returning from UA, the pro-Battalion Office Hours I was transferred up to the Battalion office to become the Files Clerk. While there we passed a CG inspection with flying colors. The inspector could find little wrong with the Files. While at Battalion I received orders to Recruiting Duty, but I turned them down since I decided on getting out in April, 1977. So, my reward for turning down orders was being sent to Camp Drum, New York in January 1977 as Admin Support for Cold Weather Training. That was the winter blizzard of 1977 with bitter cold temperatures. It was so cold that only the first part of the troops did the training. The Lieutenants complained about the cold, but it fell on deaf ears. It seems the Commanding General of the training was part of the Frozen Chosen.

The 1stSgt asked me to look at some paper work, but as I was to pass him, he gave me an elbow in the stomach. (I never told Capt. SHUTTLEWORTH what the 1stSgt did.) A week or two after motion list for Staff Sergeant came out and my name was in the Promotion Zone. At a given a suspended bust and \$100.00 fine for three months. A few months later I was given a suspended bust and \$100.00 fine for three months. A few months later I was given a suspended bust and \$100.00 fine for three months. A few months later I was given a suspended bust and \$100.00 fine for three months. A few months later I was given a suspended bust and \$100.00 fine for three months.

After getting out the Corps I went to Robert Morris College and received my degree in Accounting. Went to work for the Pittsburgh Public Schools in June 1984 in the Payroll Department (and two other departments) and retired in December 2012.

Joe TURBA



### ***Tidbit from the Editor***

#### ***Female Marine Recruits Arrive at San Diego Boot Camp for Historic Co-ed Training***

Sixty female recruits have arrived at the Marine Corps' all-male training site, where they'll complete boot camp in a coed company for the first time in the base's 100-year history.

The women arrived in San Diego on Feb.10, 2021 stepping off white buses and onto the iconic yellow footprints that mark the start of the training that transforms new recruits from civilians into Marines. Male and female drill instructors were there when the women and men arrived at the base.

The Marine Corps announced in December that three women graduated from the West Coast drill instructor school to train the incoming female recruits. A female drill instructor who was assigned to the San Diego recruit depot in the past said women's training roles were limited once they arrived.

The service has been slow to embrace coed training at boot camp, even after military combat jobs opened to women in 2016. Women are serving in the infantry and have attempted to become special operators, but Marine leaders have still pushed to keep training for new enlistees segregated by gender at the platoon level.

The women training in San Diego are from the Marine Corps' Western Recruiting Region. The service typically ships men from west of the Mississippi River to San Diego and those from states east of the river -- along with all women -- to Parris Island.

The service has been experimenting with how best to meet a new law that requires both boot camp sites to be coed within the next eight years.

The Marine Corps is also studying the possibility of shutting both recruit depots down and creating a new training site where all recruits -- men and women -- would train together. That concept has faced pushback from lawmakers.

## THE FIRST GULF WAR REMEMBERED

By Shawn Kane

The first quarter of 2021 marks the thirty-year anniversary of the First Gulf War. I was a young sergeant in 2nd Bn, 5th Marines when coming home one evening in August 1990, I saw on the news that Saddam's forces had invaded their small neighbor to the south. A country called Kuwait. I did not think much of it at the time. It appeared to be another crazy dictator going to war in the Middle East. Soon thereafter, elements of the 7th Marines deployed to Saudi Arabia in what was being called Desert Shield. We increased our op tempo and soon were conducting field exercises at Camp Pendleton and then 29 Palms. We deployed aboard ships out of 32nd Street San Diego and sailed as part of the newly formed 5th MEB on December 1st, 1990. We entered the Persian Gulf mid-January, 1991 shortly before the bombing campaign started. 5th MEB became part of the now infamous amphibious feint in which after action reports stated that the threat of the amphibious assault tied up at least 4 Iraqi divisions. In mid-February, 1991 Battalion Landing Team 2/5 disembarked from their ships and became part of Regimental Landing Team 5 and attached to Lt. Gen Walt Boomer's I MEF. When the ground war commenced, RLT 5 breached the Iraqi defenses and secured the Al Jaber Airbase and the Al Wafrah National Forest. In early March we retrograded out of Kuwait and began re-embarking aboard ships.

Thirty years later it appears to have been a decisive victory against an overmatched foe. However, at the time Iraq had the 4th largest army in the world and battle hardened after just concluding an eight-year conflict with Iran. American casualty estimates ranged from ten to fifty thousand. So, what made the overwhelming success possible? From the mid 70's through the 80's the American military transformed itself from a large draftee force to one that was all volunteer and smaller. It started to focus on technology, inter service cooperation and combined arms. Skills were honed in combined arms exercise such as CAX in 29 Palms and Team Spirit in South Korea. New weapon platforms were developed on land (Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting vehicles), air (F-117 stealth fighter and B-1 stealth bomber) and sea (Aegis and Tomahawk missile systems). Precision guided weapons systems would allow our military to destroy the enemy from greater distances and more accuracy. These changes were in stark contrast to our near peer enemies at the time in the Soviet Union and North Korea who also employed Soviet doctrinal tactics. We will never know how that military would have fared against Soviet armor breaking out through the Fulda gap into western Europe. However, the Iraqi army proved the perfect foil to test our theories as they employed Soviet armor and Soviet style doctrine. The same tactics used in the First Gulf War were employed 12 years later in the invasion of Iraq with equal success. Indeed, they are the basis for our military today if used against large scale conventional forces. Oddly enough, our enemy's greatest successes since the end of the First Gulf War have not been through technology but to use more primitive weapons.

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial has been approved for placement on the mall in Washington DC. It will be north of the Lincoln memorial and close to the Vietnam wall. It is still in the fundraising stage and does not have a build start date or dedication/opening date. The committee hopes to break ground in 2021.



The Gulf War was a war waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait arising from oil pricing and production disputes. The U.S. forces did not formally withdraw from Iraq until December 2011.

The Gulf War had two operations:

**Operation Desert Shield** (August 2, 1990 – January 17, 1991) for operations leading to the buildup of troops and defense of Saudi Arabia and

**Operation Desert Storm** (January 17, 1991 – February 28, 1991) in its combat phase.

On August 2, 1990, the Iraqi Army invaded and occupied Kuwait. The invasion led to international condemnation and brought immediate economic sanctions against Iraq by members of the UN Security Council.

UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and US President George H. W. Bush deployed forces into Saudi Arabia, and urged other countries to send their own forces to the scene. An array of nations joined the coalition, forming the largest military alliance since World War II. Most of the coalition's military forces were from the US, with Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Egypt as leading contributors, in that order. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia paid around US\$32 billion of the US\$60 billion cost.

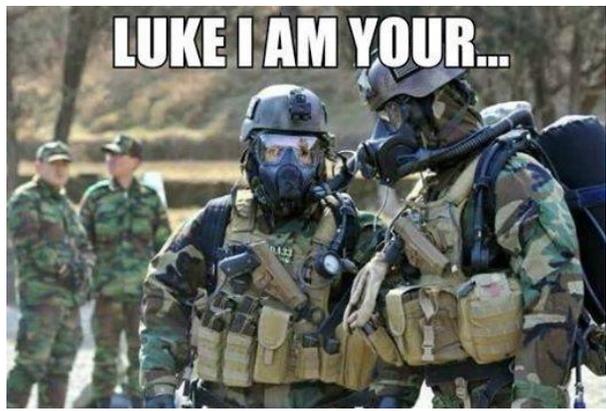
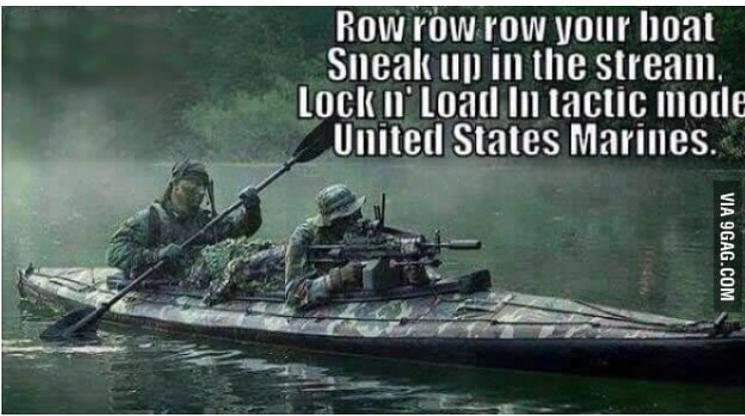
The initial conflict to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait began with an aerial and naval bombardment on January 17, 1991, continuing for five weeks. Followed by a ground assault on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This was a decisive victory for the coalition forces, who liberated Kuwait and advanced into Iraqi territory. The coalition ceased its advance and declared a ceasefire 100 hours after the ground campaign started. The campaign confined aerial and ground combat Iraq, Kuwait, and areas on Saudi Arabia's border.

The coalition consisted of approximately 700,000 troops including 540,000 U.S personnel. These troops had neurotoxin exposure from toxic chemicals, nerve agents, pesticides and herbicides. As a result, many of those who served in the Gulf War have a disorder called the **Gulf War Illness**, also known as **Gulf War Syndrome**. The Gulf War Syndrome can also put veterans at higher risk of other diseases due to their weakened immune system.

In 2013, researcher at Georgetown University Medical Center conducted brain scans on 31 veterans with Gulf War Syndrome and found anomalies in the part of the brain involved in the processing and perception of pain and fatigue. However, no one has linked any single exposure or underlying mechanism to the Gulf War Syndrome.

According to the VA, Gulf War Syndrome symptoms include: (1) fatigue, (2) headache, (3) joint pain, (4) indigestion, (5) insomnia, (6) dizziness and (7) memory problems.

Gulf War veterans who believe they suffer from any of these symptoms should contact a VFW-accredited service officer to help with a disability claim or go to [www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits).



Our Marine Corps is changing as different types of conflicts and tactics change. Our Marine Corps League will be making changes as well as it will be going more digital with technology and so will our Detachment. The detachment website is in the process of being updated thanks to our Web Master Shawn Kane, the newsletter as you have noticed is designed to disseminate information and happenings within our detachment. The future plan is to go digital as well with mailings and this is to reduce cost so, if you would like to continue receiving the newsletter you need to submit a valid email address to the Adjutant for updating the roster and to receive the newsletter by email, the difficult part is on us, the easy part is to submit a email address and the newsletter will be sent directly to you. All information submitted is confidential. Any questions or concerns you can call me as I am the editor of the newsletter, Chuck Burrow, Jr. Vice Commandant but, when you call please leave a message as I do get busy at times.

**DETACHMENT'S MISSION STATEMENT**

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



**VISIT OUR WEB SITE**

South Hills Detachment 726 - Marine Corps League, Inc

*Our culture, language, history and values are vital to uniting us as a nation.*



**TAPS**

On March 5, 2021 Paul Spinnenweber brother of Joe Spinnenweber who is the Sgt-At- Arms for our Detachment was laid to rest at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, military honors were provided by the South Hills Veterans Honor Guard. Rest in Peace brother.

*Semper Parati*

You are Marines. You're part of a brotherhood. From now on, wherever you are, every Marine is your brother. Some of you will go to war. Some of you will not return. But remember this: Marines die, that's what we're here for. But the Marine Corps lives forever. And that means YOU live forever.

