



# SITREP

## LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

[HTTP://WWW.LVMCL.COM](http://www.lvmcl.com)

**DETACHMENT MEETINGS:**  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 1930  
EMAUS FIRE CO. No. 2  
1017 Pennsylvania Ave  
Emmaus PA 18049

### DID YOU KNOW...

In March, Lt General David H. Berger was nominated by President Trump to serve as the 38<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps. His appointment as Commandant requires Senate confirmation. Upon confirmation, he will pin on his fourth star.

Lt Gen Berger is a former infantry platoon commander and Recon Marine. He currently serves as the commander of Marine Corps Combat Development Command and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, in Quantico, Virginia.

-The Commandant is not necessarily the highest-ranking officer in the Marine Corps, but the position makes him senior to all other officers regardless of rank

-The Commandant is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and reports to the Secretary of the Navy, but not to the Chief of Naval Operations

-The Commandant is responsible for keeping the Marine Corps in fighting condition, but he does not serve as a direct battlefield commander

## DETACHMENT OFFICERS

- *Commandant*

Jason Smith

- *SR Vice Commandant*

Howard Schaeffer

- *JR Vice Commandant*

John Eyer

- *Judge Advocate*

William Stoudt

- *Adjutant/Paymaster*

Ron Heckman

- *Chaplain*

Joseph Malia

- *Sergeant at Arms*

Milton Solares

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Sgt Major Troy Black has been selected to take over as 19th Sgt Major of the Marine Corps. He enlisted in 1988 and has an extensive resume of deployments under his belt, including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, and more.

Throughout his career he's been awarded the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device, Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, the Combat Action Ribbon with two Gold Stars, and more. He's previously served as Sergeant Major of Officer Candidates School, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

-The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and serves as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant. It is typically a four-year post, but service is left to the discretion of the Commandant

-The position of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957. True to Marine Corps fashion, it was the first position of its kind in any of the branches of the United States armed forces



## HELP WANTED...

**ATTN MARINES:** I would like to do a “who’s who” in one of the upcoming editions of *The Sitrep*, but I need your help in doing so. My intentions are to feature pictures without names in one edition, and then reveal “who’s who” in the next month’s. If you have any old service pictures that you would like to share, please bring them to one of the next few meetings. You can also feel free to send them directly to me via text or email. Also, I would like to rotate articles featuring different members from the Detachment as I think it is a good way for us to connect with members we may not necessarily mingle with at our meetings (not to mention it will give new members an idea of who each one of us is). If you think you may be interested in being included, please let me know!

Thanks in advance

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 8 May 1900: We will be meeting with the Emmaus Youth Fitness Team. Meet at the sports entrance of the High School (near the tennis courts)

Saturday 18 May, 0830-1500: “Flag Etiquette” booth at the Boy/Cub Scout Jambo event at Kutztown University

Sunday 19 May 1000-1400: “Roses” at the Emmaus Farmer’s Market at the triangle by the VFW in Emmaus

Monday 27 May, 0900: Memorial Day Parade. Kickoff at Emmaus High School (in case of inclement weather, there will be a ceremony held in the auditorium)

## SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE FLEET

Follow the link below to find out what is happening now in the FMF:

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/04/29/the-marines-are-gunning-up-the-amphibious-combat-vehicle-is-a-40mm-cannon-in-its-future/>

If you would like to submit something to *The Sitrep*, please contact me via email or text. I welcome any input you, as a Detachment, may have. My apologies in advance if I have omitted any matters of importance for this month’s edition and ask that you let me know if I have done so.

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria Mattix

[dumagirl4@gmail.com](mailto:dumagirl4@gmail.com)

## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Last month's meeting was held on Wednesday, 27 MAR 2019

Minutes are as follows:

A motion was made to accept the previous minutes as written. The motion was seconded.

For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Correspondence:

Delegates for the department convention will be officers. If you are interested in attending, please let Jason know. Registration fee will be covered by the Detachment.

The national convention is August 4-9. Sr. Vice Commandant Schaeffer will be one of the delegates.

Detachment picnic is August 17.

A motion was made to donate \$500.00 to the Emmaus Fitness Team. The motion was seconded.

For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Report of the Paymaster:

Paymaster was absent, so official report was postponed until the next meeting.

Report of any Member/Family Member Sick/In Distress

Rich Podquski's father in law will be starting his cancer treatments. Chaplain Joe Malia is sick.

Report of Officers:

Jason received several emails in reference to the Eagle Scout ceremonies thanking the Detachment for their participation. This is a big accomplishment for the young gentlemen and they very much appreciate our participation. Several state representatives have been in attendance and the Detachment is being noticed.

Jason received an email requesting that members of the Detachment run the "Flag Etiquette" booth at the Boy/Cub Scout Jambo event on May 18 at Kutztown University from 0800-1500. Please consider volunteering even part of the time if you are unable to participate the entire time.

We are still trying to secure a spot to sell roses at the Farmer's Market on May 19. Our initial request was denied. John Eyer and Joe Deddo will attempt to appeal the request.

Standing Committees:

PR:

The website has been updated including Adam Polster's Hometown Hero event, Matt Miller's Eagle Scout ceremony and current roster photos. Jason is thinking of getting creative with the photos (for example having an old service photo fade to a current one when hovering over it). If you have any photos, please have them scanned...not only for the website, but for the SitRep as well.

Marine of the Year:

Nominations are Joe Deddo and Joe Malia. A motion was made to change the Marine of the Year committee to an Awards committee to allow for Detachments members to be recognized for accomplishments in addition to Marine of the Year. The motion was seconded

For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

The finance committee will meet upon Ron's return to discuss how to best manage the Detachment's funds to help them grow.

#### Unfinished Business:

The gun raffle is in full swing. There are still tickets available. Jason will be posting a picture of the ticket (with the numbers blacked out) on the Detachment Facebook page. Drawing will be held on May 22.

The liability insurance policy was purchased, which will cover any upcoming events.

#### New Business:

The Department Facebook page, and our participation with it, was discussed.

#### Good of the League:

Shane would like to recognize the Honor Guard and thank them for their service. Recently his old boss's father, an Army Korea War Veteran passed away and the family was having a hard time securing an active duty Honor Guard. The Honor Guard stepped up without hesitation and was able to give him and his family the respect they deserved. Please consider participating in the Honor Guard. Please let your families know that you rate the presence of an Honor Guard and provide them with point of contact information for someone within the Detachment in the unfortunate event that something may happen to you.

#### Announcements:

The nominee for incoming Commandant of the Marine Corps was announced. LT General David H. Berger will be the Marine Corps 38 Commandant if approved.

The meeting was declared closed until April 24, 2019.