



SITREP

LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

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

DETACHMENT MEETINGS:

Every 4th Wednesday @ 1930
EMAUS FIRE CO. No. 2
1017 Pennsylvania Ave
Emmaus PA 18049

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*

Rondell Anderson

• *Web Sergeant*

David Guldin

THIS MONTH IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY...

1 February 1967: Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

2 February 1944: The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

6 February 1968: Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

11 February 1922: BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.

15 February 1998: One hundred years ago this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.

17 February 1967: The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.

23 February 1945: Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short firefight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

24 February 1991: The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

28 February 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history. A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War.

-Taken from:

<http://www.usmchangout.com/military/branches/usmc/history/thisdayinhistory.htm#.Xlw3l6hKg2w>

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

2020 OFFICER INSTALLATION



Pictured above alphabetically: Sergeant at Arms Rondell Anderson, JR Vice Commandant John Eyer, Adjutant/Paymaster Ron Heckman, District III Sr Vice Commandant Robert Hockenbury, Chaplain Joseph Malia, Assistant District III Sr Vice Commandant John Mitzak, SR Vice Commandant Howard Schaeffer, Commandant Jason Smith, Past Sergeant at Arms Milton Solares, Judge Advocate William Stoudt

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/2020/02/27/larger-manpower-cuts-coming-to-the-future-corps-marine-commandant-says/>

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

riamcl296@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Last month's meeting was held on 22 JANUARY 2020

Minutes are as follows:

JANUARY 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Applications for New Membership:

-NONE

Previous meeting minutes were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Correspondence:

-Commandant Smith received a letter from Lenni Maguire, the new coach of Emmaus High School Marine Corps Fitness team. The boys' team placed second this year at Nationals, the girls' team placed third. This is the 44th year that the Emmaus team has qualified for the national meet. Their home competition will be held 03/14/2020. Nationals will be 05/16/2020.

-A motion was made to donate \$1,000.00 to the EHS Fitness team. The motion was seconded

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Report of the Paymaster:

-Checking beginning balance: \$18,732.61 Deposits: \$50.00 (dues) Outgoing: \$96.31 (Bill Stoudt/flag toppers), \$40.00 (national dues), \$6.00 (state dues) Ending balance: \$18,640.30

-Savings: \$3,377.39

-Total: \$22,017.69

-A motion was made to accept the report

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

-Membership cards have been delayed due to a change in printers. This is a League wide problem. All membership dues that have been paid up to date are valid for 2020 despite not having a new membership card

Report of Members Sick or in Distress:

-NONE

Report of Officers:

-The Emmaus Veterans Committee (EVC) needs volunteers for the Honor Guard. The EVC provides shirts and jackets for the Honor Guard. Marine Corps League covers MAY be worn with the EVC uniform. When wearing EVC shirts, you must adhere to EVC bylaws for ribbon placement and standards. When wearing MCL shirts, adhere to MCL standards. MCL ribbons MAY NOT be worn with EVC shirts, they are League only

-John Eyer is the Detachment liaison for the EVC

Committees:

- Website-please submit any photos for the website to Dave Gulden or Jason Smith
- Ball Committee-NONE
- The SitRep is back in print
- Detachment picnic will be held August 22 at Emmaus Community Park
- Marine of the Year Committee will meet at a later date

Unfinished Business:

- We will be holding a game night for February's meeting and will be open to all Veterans. Please bring guests. There will be pizza, veggies and snacks. Please let Jason know how many plan on attending so he will know how much pizza to order

New Business:

- Discussion was held in reference to selling roses at the Emmaus Farmer's Market again this year. Proposed dates are May 17, 2020 (right before Memorial Day) and June 28, 2020 (right before July 4th)

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

- The Detachment has assumed full responsibility for St Anne's Cemetery. To date, John Eyer has replaced 276 flags. The county is responsible for the placards that are placed at the gravesites. We will be looking at a date for the Detachment to go as a group and perform upkeep/maintenance of the grounds/veteran graves. Mention was made that this would make a wonderful Eagle Scout or badge event for local organizations. If you know of any Boy/Girl scout troops or other kids' organizations who are looking for volunteer opportunities, please bring it to the Detachment's attention

- Detachment members expressed interest in bus trips to both the Marine Corps Museum and National Monuments (specifically the Vietnam War and Iwo Jima Memorials). Details and specifics to follow

Officer Installation:

- Installation of the 2020 Detachment Officers was conducted
- Detachment 296 Officers are as follows
 - Commandant-Jason Smith
 - SR Vice Commandant-Howard Schaeffer
 - JR Vice Commandant-John Eyer
 - Judge Advocate-Bill Stoudt

Good of the League:

- Girl Scouts conduct what they call a Cookie Share Program in which donations can be made to your local troop and they will send cookies to military and first responders. You can even specify a certain unit on deployment. Ria will be contacting the local Girl Scout Troop for details

Announcements:

- Cory is celebrating his birthday this month
- Rondell and his wife are expecting their first child

The meeting was closed until 1930 hours on Wednesday, 26 FEBRUARY 2020