



**CHESAPEAKE  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
DETACHMENT 853**



116 Reservation Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23322-5253  
948-210-5528  
ChesapeakeMCL.com

# **SITREP**

**DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2025**

**Commandant:**  
**Joseph Hoadley**  
**jwhoadley@aol.com**  
**757-335-2304**

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**Senior Vice Commandant:**  
**Edward Pearia**  
**epearia@cox.net**  
**757-348-1711**

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**Junior Vice Commandant:**  
**David Perdue**  
**djperdue@verizon**  
**757-395-7980**

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**Judge Advocate:**  
**David Weber**  
**davidweberltcolusmc@msn.com**  
**757-620-7023**








## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MISSION

**“To promote the interest and perpetuate the traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.”**



### **AFTER ACTION REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025**

During the month of February, Detachment 853:

-  **Met with the acting HCC administrator of the new North Battlefield VA Clinic**
-  **Met with the Chesapeake Jubilee Committee**
-  **Held Monthly Detachment Meeting**
-  **Recruited a new member**
-  **Distributed food baskets to applicable junior enlisted Marine families**
-  **Sponsored a concession stand for special events at the Hampton Coliseum**
-  **Retired damaged American Flags**

*Message from....*

## DETACHMENT COMMANDANT

**JOE HOADLEY**

### **MARINES and MEMBERS:**

I hope everyone made it through the snow with no problems; hopefully, it will be the last of it for the year. As you know, this is the 250th year of our Marine Corps, keep a look out for upcoming events that will be published in the magazine we get. We had a good meeting on the 27th and had a good turnout. As always, we would like to see more members come.

### **Birthdays for March:**

Dave Weber 3/4

Wayne Smith 3/4

Keli Martin 3/13

We wish them a very Happy Birthday and many more.

### MARINE CORPS HISTORY FOR MARCH



3/1/1968 Battle for Hue City ends with the entirety of the city back under US and South Vietnamese control after 26 days of fighting.



3/8/1965 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade the first ground troops in Vietnam lands at Da Nang.



3/11/2011 Marines from III MEF begin humanitarian assistance Operation Tomodachi in Japan.



3/20/2003 Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



3/21/2003 Marines capture Rumaylah oil fields and avert their destruction by Saddam Hussein's (OIF).



3/23/2003 Battle of An-nasirlyah begins for the Marines of task force Tarawa.



3/24/1801 Marines choose 8th and I Streets in DC for Marine Barracks.



3/24/1931 Marines participate in humanitarian and rebuilding efforts after earthquake in Nicaragua.



3/26/1953 In Korea, combat outposts Vegas-Reno-Carson begin receiving heavy attacks from enemy forces that last for 4 days.

A couple of other things for March:



3/5 Ash Wednesday



3/9 Daylight Saving time begins.



3/17 It's a grand day for the Irish (St Patrick's Day).



3/29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day (welcome home to all of).

Have a safe month of March, hope to see more of you come out of hibernation and come to the meeting.

*Semper Fi !*

*Message from...*

## DETACHMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

ED PEARIA

### **MARINES and MEMBERS:**

### **Home Depot Renovation Grants for Vets**

Home Depot has pledged more than \$1 million through the Home Depot Foundation to renovate American Legion Posts and the homes of veterans throughout the United States. Improvement projects at American Legion posts and necessary home repairs for veterans in need are eligible to receive the grants. The Home Depot Foundation grants provide American Legion posts with funds and volunteer help to fix the little things that make huge differences: weatherizing windows, insulating attics, interior and exterior painting, installing new ceiling tiles, replacing fans and replacing flooring. Additionally, these grants provide an opportunity for Legion posts to aid veterans in need of home repairs. For more information, visit the American Legion website.

### **SICK CALL:**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Detachment's Marines: Wayne Smith, Willmont "Griff" Griffin, Mike Jeannotte and all members' and their families that are dealing with health issues.

### **REMINDERS:**

- Anyone living in Chesapeake and needs a ride to our Detachment's meetings or activities, please contact me.
- Every Thursday from 1000 – 1200 hours, we have an informal working party to make improvements to our headquarters. Feel free to show up when you can spare the time.

*Semper Fi !*

*Message from...*

## DETACHMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT

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**DAVID PERDUE**

### **MARINES and MEMBERS:**

#### **EMBROIDERED SHIRTS**

The Detachment has plenty of embroidered CMCL regular and tech performance short sleeve polo shirts for \$30. Sizes are from Medium to XXL.

*Semper Fi!*

*Message from...*

## DETACHMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

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**DAVID WEBER**

### **MARINES and MEMBERS:**

Veterans do not need to belong to AARP to get informational benefits! Check out the [aarp.org](http://aarp.org) website for more information











#### **MARCH SAFETY TIP:**

March is Colorectal Cancer Month. Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest cancer in the US, but it is also preventable. Over 150,000 people will receive a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer, and over 50,000 will die of it.

Colorectal cancer awareness is important because many cases of these cancers are preventable. Screening by colonoscopy can prevent this cancer because precancerous polyps found during the procedure can be removed at the same time. Regular screenings should start at about age 45. Early detection of cancer permits early treatment, which is more likely to be successful. Over 90% of cases of localized cancers are survivable.

Some known risks are:

-  Age. The median age at diagnosis is 66, with 78% of new cases are diagnosed at age 55 or older. Yet, about 12% are diagnosed before age 50. (Early checkups may pay off!)
-  Sex. Colorectal cancer is more common in men than women.
-  Race. More than 50% of cases are found in the Black population.
-  Family history. If your family has a history of colorectal cancer, your risk doubles.
-  Personal history. Your risk increases if you have had a previous cancer diagnosis, have a high risk of polyps, or have Irritable Bowel Disease.
-  Excessive alcohol use.
-  Smoking.
-  Obesity.

You can reduce your risk of developing colorectal cancer by getting regular medical checkups, to include needed colorectal screening and colonoscopies as needed; the gastroenterologist can detect and remove suspicious polyps. Personally, exercise regularly, watch your diet, and listen to your physician. Oh, and live longer ... your risk decreases after age 70!

*Semper Fi!*

*Message from....*

**DETACHMENT ADJUTANT**

**BILL FOGLE**

**MARINES and MEMBERS:**

The February Detachment meeting was held on the 27th. Seven members present, including charter member, retired SgtMaj Wayne Smith and all elected officers. The Detachment's 2025 Budget, and 2025 Meeting / Event Schedule was voted on and passed unanimously.

*Semper Fi!*



**HEADS UP!**  
**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, 27 MARCH, 1900 HOURS**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**27 March ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**24 April ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**16 – 18 May ~ Department Meeting**  
**16-18 May ~ Chesapeake Jubilee [Ice Sale]**  
**22 May ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**26 May ~ Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony, 1100 Hours**  
**26 June ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**4 July ~ Chesapeake 4th July Parade**  
**24 July ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**28 August ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**20 September ~ Chesapeake Mayor's Veterans Breakfast , 0800 Hours**  
**25 September ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**23 October ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours**  
**TBD November ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1200 Hours**  
**[Prep for Thanksgiving Food Baskets]**  
**10 November ~ MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY**  
**11 November ~ Chesapeake Veterans Day Ceremony – 1100 Hours**  
**TBD December ~ Detachment Members' Meeting - 1200 hours**  
**[Prep Christmas Food Baskets ]**  
**6 December ~ Chesapeake Christmas Parade ~ 15 Hours [Prep] – 1800 Hours (Parade)**  
**7 December ~ Detachment Dinner / Installation of officers – TBD Hours**



### **MARCH 29TH IS NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**

**From Febury 1961 to May 1975 , more than 3.4 millons Amricans served in support of U.S. military operations in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. As of 2010, 58,267 names are now carved in the polished black granite known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and more than 1,580 service men are Missing In Action.**



**DID YOU KNOW.....**

### **VIETNAM STATISTICS**

A little history most people will never know. Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall:

- There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 62 years since the first casualty.
- The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, MA. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old.
- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.



- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
- 5 soldiers were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam (the day before they were to leave for home).
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from just one high school.
- 8 women are on the Wall. All nurses.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall
- Beallsville, OH with a population of 475 lost 6 of their sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- The most casualty deaths in a single day were on 31 January, 1968 - 245 deaths.
- The most casualty deaths for a single month were May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.
- For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created.
- To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not return, we see the faces, we feel the pain these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, son and daughters. There is no noble war, just noble warriors.



## VA IMPLEMENTS NEW FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AT FACILITIES



February 13, 2025

VA Digital Media Engagement

VA has announced a new policy limiting the display of flags at VA facilities, effective immediately. The policy is intended to establish consistency across the department and aligns with longstanding Department of Defense guidelines.

Under the new directive, only specific flags may be publicly displayed or depicted at VA facilities. These include the United States flag, flags of U.S. states and territories, military service flags, VA flags and official flags of U.S. agencies. Additionally, flags representing prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA), Senior Executive Service (SES), military command units and burial flags for honoring Veterans and reservists are permitted.

The policy applies to all VA facilities, including offices, government vehicles, medical centers, common areas and parking lots. However, it does not prohibit the inclusion of unauthorized flags in museum exhibits, state-issued license plates, grave sites, historical displays or works of art, provided they do not imply official endorsement by the department.

This guidance supersedes VA's previous memorandum on displaying flags during Pride Month, issued in May 2024. However, it does not affect existing policies governing national cemeteries.

"All Veterans and VA beneficiaries will always be welcome at all VA facilities to receive the benefits and services they have earned under the law," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins said in an email to all employees. "This policy will bring consistency and simplicity to the display of flags throughout the department, ensuring a singular focus on serving the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors."

VA's implementation follows similar policies maintained by the Department of Defense since the previous Trump administration and upheld during the Biden administration.

By Riley Ceder

Feb 24, 2025

## **Marine Corps cuts back number of Ospreys in Okinawa**



The U.S. Marine Corps scaled back its number of MV-22 Ospreys from 24 to 20 on Okinawa, Japan, in 2024 as part of an overhauling effort for the aircraft, according to a Marine Corps spokesperson.

The change was outlined in the [2025 Marine Aviation Plan](#), released earlier this month, which noted a reduction in tiltrotor squadrons across the service from 12 to 10 authorized Ospreys in support of a force design initiative. Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons 262 and 265 based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan, were among those cut.

“Force Design realignment reflects a comprehensive evaluation of the structure and number of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadrons to enhance their overall effectiveness and responsiveness,” a Marine Corps spokesperson told Military Times.

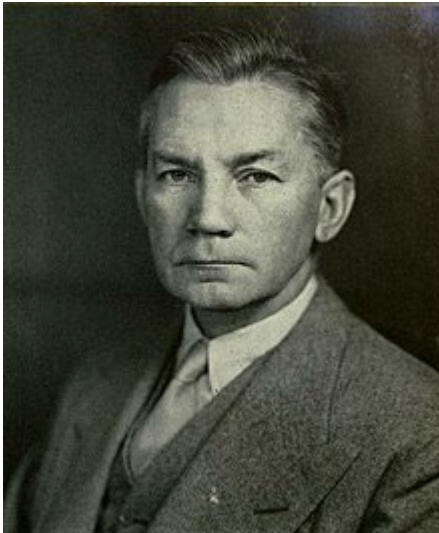
The plan has not affected training, combat, or humanitarian missions for the squadrons, the spokesperson said.

The Corps’ new aviation plan — the service’s first such plan in three years — includes efforts to target the Osprey’s proprotor gearbox, which Air Force investigators determined was the root cause of a CV-22B Osprey crash in November 2023 off the coast of Japan that killed eight U.S. airmen. Following the crash, the military grounded Ospreys across the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force for three months.

“We are pursuing several improvements to the [proprotor gearbox] to enhance aircraft safety and improve component reliability and durability,” the plan reads.



# ***THE MARINES***



***"The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a  
Marine Corps for the next 500 years."***

***- James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, 23 February 1945***

***Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni***

***"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"***

