



**CHESAPEAKE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DETACHMENT 853**



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SITREP
DETACHMENT 853 NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2026

Commandant:
Joseph Hoadley
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Senior Vice Commandant:
Edward Pearia
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757-348-1711

Junior Vice Commandant:
David Perdue
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Judge Advocate:
David Weber
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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 2026

During the month of February, Detachment 853:

-  Held monthly Detachment meeting
-  Closed Detachment's Consumer Cellular account
-  Sworn in new member
-  Sponsored a concession stand for special events at the Hampton Coliseum
-  Sworn in new Detachment Officers starting in March
-  Opened NFCU savings and checking account
-  Retired damaged American flags



DETACHMENT COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

Another month here is gone, my great aunt always used to say the older you get the faster the days go by. Sometimes I just cannot believe where the time has gone. I am still here in the area and looking at possibly moving in April now, there is always something to hold us up. But it is just more time here with friends and family.

Marine Corps History For The Month Of March:

- 3/2/1968 - Battle for Hue City ends with the entirety of the city back under U.S. and South Vietnamese control after 26 days of fighting
- 3/8/1965 - 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, the first ground combat unit 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 forces.
- 3/23/2003 - Battle of An-Nasiriyah begins for the Marines of Task Force Tarawa
- 3/26/1953 - in Korea, combat outposts Vegas-Reno-Carson begin receiving heavy attacks from enemy forces that last for four days.
- 3/31/1801 - Marines choose 8th and I Streets in D.C for site of Marine Barracks
- 3/31/1931 - Marines participate in humanitarian and rebuilding efforts after earthquake in Nicaragua.

Other Dates For The Month Of March To Remember:

- 3/17 ~ Its a great day for the Irish St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 ~ First day of Spring
- 3/29 ~ Palm Sunday
- 3/29 ~ National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Marines Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month:

- David Weber - 3/4
- Wayne Smith - 3/4
- Keli Martin - 3/13
- Bill Fogle - 3/25

We Wish You All A Very HAPPY BIRTHDAY And Many More!
If you should see these Marines wish them a Happy Birthday.

Be save and keep healthy. **ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE!**

Semper Fi!

Joe Hoadley

SR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

This month, with an upcoming move to Florida, Joe Hoadley will step down as the Detachment's Commandant once the necessary paperwork is processed by both the Department and National.

What happens next? According to National regulations, as the Senior Vice Commandant, I will take on the role of Commandant. The Junior Vice Commandant, David Perdue, will step up to become the Senior Vice Commandant, and Bill Fogle has agreed to serve as Interim Junior Vice Commandant.

Change is an inherent aspect of life. While some changes may be beneficial and others less so, Marines are expected to improvise, adapt, and overcome these challenges. Hence, Detachment 853 will "Charlie Mike" - Continue Mission.



The Combat Action Ribbon is worn in order of precedence on a Marine's "ribbon rack" displayed on the left (or right) side of a service member's uniform. The outermost blue stripe is always to the wearer's center, with the central colors in order of red, white, and blue (left to right when worn on left side of uniform; right to left when worn on right side of uniform); only one Combat Action Ribbon is authorized for wear, with each additional CAR award signified with a 5/16 inch gold or silver star device attached to the center of the ribbon. For example, two CAR awards are signified with the CAR and the addition of one gold star device. Three awards are signified with the ribbon and two gold star devices.

In full dress uniform medals are worn on the member's left side. The CAR is therefore worn on the right side of the uniform. The CAR is the highest rated ribbon-only award in the U.S. military decorations order of precedence and is superseded only by medals of meritorious achievement and combat valor.

Now You Know The Rest Of The Story!

Semper Fi!
Ed Pearia

JR VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

I have added 6 CMCL short sleeve shirts and 4 anchor & lobe cover emblems to our inventory. See, call, or text me if you need a Detachment shirt or cover.

Semper Fi!
David Perdue

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

FALL AWARENESS



Falls are the leading cause of injury and loss of independence. It can happen to any of us, but as we age, our risk increases as does the chance of traumatic injury. One in four Americans age 65 and older fall each year. Traumatic Brain Injury and hip fractures are key factors in the loss of independence and even death. There are several things you can do to decrease your risk of tripping and/or falling:

-  Talk with your doctor about your fall risks.
-  Review with your doctor the medicines you are taking to identify increased risk of falling.
-  Stay active. Practice exercises to improve your balance and strength.
-  Improve safety around the home with grab bars in the shower and tub areas. Install better lighting (especially around stairs). Remove trip hazards like loose items on the stairs and loose throw rugs.
-  When venturing outdoors, wear supportive, non-skid shoes.
-  Avoid wearing just socks in the house to reduce slips.

We can take charge of our fall risks by taking a few of these recommendations to heart and making our homes and lives safer. Stay safe!

Live long and prosper!

Semper Fi!

David Weber

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

Importunity- now that is a word that you do not hear every day. Oxford Languages says that importunity is persistence, even to the point of annoyance. E.M. Bounds was an author, attorney, and clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church South who lived from 1835 to 1913. He wrote several books on prayer. He writes, "Importunate prayer is a mighty movement of the soul toward God. It is the ability to hold on, press on, and wait. It is persistent empowered by the Holy Spirit. Importunate prayer is...a yearning for divine communion."

Persistent faith is a pressing into the reality of God. Such faith tethers the soul to the God who breathes life into it. Break that connection and not only does faith not persist, it perishes. Permit the Holy Spirit to strengthen that connection and faith becomes overcoming, victorious faith-a faith that affirms that God "who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6. As E.M.Bounds notes, " A persistent spirit brings a man to the place where faith takes hold, claims and appropriates the blessing."

After describing how we are pressed on every side, Paul declares with importunity, "We never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!" **2 Corinthians 4:16-17.**

Lord, bless us with a faith that persists even to the point of annoyance. Embolden us so that against all odds, We see the glory you are drawing us toward and with unwavering devotion press on with you. Give us perspective so that we will see the events of these days in the light of eternity. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Prayer List:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our Detachment's Marines: William Sweeney Sr, Mike Jeannotte, Wayne Smith, Willmont "Griff" Griffin and his wife Tina, Pete Harris, Joe Hoadley and all members' and their families that are dealing with health issues or the life challenges in their lives.

Semper Paratus

Rev. Dana Lortie,
MSgt (Ret).

ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

MARINES,

CHESAPEAKE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DETACHMENT 853
MINUTES OF 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Opening Ceremony:

- Meeting was called to order by the Commandant at 1900 hours.
- Colors posted
- Pledge of Allegiance was made.
- Bible was opened and opening prayer was read.

Roll Call: 8 members present including all elected officers:

1. Joe Hoadley, Commandant
2. Ed Pearia, Senior Vice Commandant
3. David Perdue, Junior Vice Commandant

4. David Weber, Judge Advocate
5. Keli Martin, Associate Member
6. Bill Fogle, Member
7. Vincent Amos, Member
8. Gary Sneed, Member

Order Of Business:

- Application for membership:
 1. One application was submitted. Motion was made to have the application accepted, it was seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- The minutes from the January 2026 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve them was made, seconded, and approved.
- Commandant reported on correspondence since the last meeting
- Paymasters Report was given.. Motion was made that the report be approved. Motion was seconded and approved
- Report was given on any member or member's family sick or in distress by the Sr. Vice Commandant.
- Report from Officers:
 1. The Commandant announced his resignation from the commandant position, effective next month, after notifying both the Department and National leadership. He also reviewed the official procedures for selecting a new Commandant.
 2. Senior Vice Commandant: Announced our website viewership is up 115% from last month. The Website Scholarship application has been updated to reflect new scholarship question, and the detachment has had 4 membership inquiries for the month.
 3. Junior Vice Commandant : Nothing new to report at this time
 4. The Judge Advocate reported that the 2026 scholarship program has been officially announced to city schools in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake. Notification will be extended to the City of Portsmouth next month.
 5. Quartermaster reported adding 6 shirts and 4 cover anchors & globe emblems to inventory..

Unfinished business:

- No unfinished business

New business:

- A motion was introduced to provide assistance to eligible Coast Guard families in Northwest and Elizabeth City because of the ongoing government shutdown. After discussion, the motion received a second and was approved.
- A motion was introduced to contribute our stock of canned and dry goods to a food drive supporting Coast Guard families. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Selection of new Detachment officers; effective next month : Commandant: Ed Pearia; Senior Vice Commandant: David Perdue; Junior Vice Commandant: Bill Fogle; Judge Advocate: David Weber

Closing Ceremony:

- Closing was held with retiring of the colors
- Closing prayer
- Playing the Marine Corps Hymn
- Meeting Closed at 2030 Hours

Semper Fi!

Ed Pearia

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HEADS UP!
MARCH DETACHMENT MEETING
THURSDAY, 26 MARCH, 1900 HOURS

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 26 March ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- April ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 23 April ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 14-17 May ~ Chesapeake Jubilee Ice Sale
- 25 May ~ Memorial Day
- 28 May ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 25 June ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- July ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 04 July ~ Fourth Of July
- 23 July ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 27 August ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 19 September ~ Chesapeake Mayor's Veterans Breakfast, 0800 Hours
- 24 September ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- October ~ Trustee Meeting; Date & Time To Be Decided (TBD)
- 22 October ~ Detachment Members' Meeting, Thursday, 1900 Hours
- 10 November ~ Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 November ~ Veterans Day
- 21 November Detachment Members' Meeting, Saturday, 0900 Hours (Prep Thanksgiving Baskets)
- 7 December ~ Detachment Dinner / Installation of 2027 Officers
- 19 December Detachment Member Meeting, Saturday, 0900 Hours (Prep Christmas Baskets)



PASSING OF A MARINE: RECAP



- **Request Military Funeral Honors:** The VA provides specialized honors for eligible veterans, which typically include a two-person uniformed detail, the playing of Taps, and the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag to the next of kin.
- **Documentation Needed (DD 214):** To secure honors and burial benefits, you must provide the funeral director with the veteran's DD 214 (separation document/discharge papers) or other proof of service.
- **Funeral Director Coordination:** Inform your funeral director immediately that the deceased was a veteran so they can coordinate with the appropriate military branch for honors.
- **Eligibility for Honors:** Military Funeral Honors are available to all eligible veterans, but a full 21-gun salute is typically reserved for retirees, active-duty deaths, or Medal of Honor recipients.
- **Attire and Protocol:** Attendees should dress conservatively and respectfully. Military members may wear their dress uniforms, while civilians should wear formal, dark clothing.
- **VA Benefits:** Beyond honors, the VA may provide burial allowances, a burial flag, and a headstone or marker for eligible veterans.
- **Social Security:** Remember to contact the Social Security Administration separately for potential death benefits, as their requirements differ from VA benefits.
- **Burial Options:** Options include burial in a national cemetery, a private cemetery, or a burial at sea.



FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

General Colin Powell's Thoughts On Leadership

THOUGHT #6

"You don't know what you can get away with until you try."

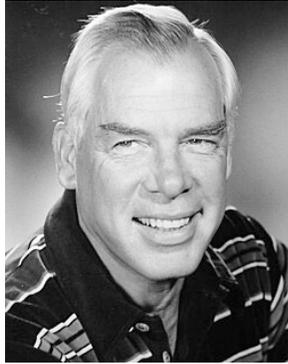
"You know the expression, 'it's easier to get forgiveness than permission.' Well, it's true. Good leaders don't wait for official blessing to try things out. They're prudent, not reckless. But they also realize a fact of life in most organizations: if you ask enough people for permission, you'll inevitably come up against someone who believes his job is to say 'no.' So the moral is, don't ask. Less effective middle managers endorsed the sentiment, 'If I haven't explicitly been told 'yes,' I can't do it,' whereas the good ones believed, 'If I haven't explicitly been told 'no,' I can.' There's a world of difference between these two points of view."

To Be Continued...



DID YOU KNOW.....

Famous Actor and Academy Award Winner Lee Marvin Was A Marine?



Marvin enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on August 12, 1942. Before finishing the School of Infantry, he served as a quartermaster. Marvin served in the 4th Marine Division as a scout sniper in the Pacific Theater during World War II, including assaults on Kwajalein, Eniwetok, and Saipan-Tinian. While serving as a member of India ("I") Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division, Marvin participated in 21 amphibious assaults on Japanese-held islands. He was wounded in action on June 18, 1944, while taking part in the assault on Mount Tapochau during the Battle

of Saipan, during which most of his company became casualties. He was hit by machine gun fire, which severed his sciatic nerve, and then was hit in the foot by a sniper. After over a year of medical treatment in naval hospitals, Marvin was given a medical discharge with the rank of private first class. He had previously held the rank of corporal before being demoted for troublemaking. Lee Marvin passed away August 29, 1987 at the aged of 63.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

NEWS

Military Times

February 26

VA To Formally Rescind Controversial Disability Ratings Rule

By Patricia Kime

A regulation that would have required Veterans Affairs medical examiners to include the effects of medication in assigning disability ratings is expected to be rescinded formally on Feb. 27.

According to an advanced Federal Register notice, the rescission will be effective immediately on publication, expected early Friday morning.

In the notice, VA officials said that while the rule was meant to clarify existing policy, “stakeholders have expressed uncertainty” about its impact on claims and leaving the rule in place during the codification process “could undermine confidence in the benefits system.”

“VA always takes veterans’ concerns seriously and recognizes that many commenters construed the interim final rule as something that could result in adverse consequences,” the notice read.

The rule, published Feb. 17, generated significant backlash from veterans, advocacy groups and lawmakers who said the proposal could have financially penalized veterans who adhere to medical treatment or encourage those seeking a disability rating to forego medications prior to a compensation and pension exam, putting their health at risk.

The VA said the regulation simply formalized a practice that has been in place since 1958. Officials said it was needed because a 2025 court ruling, *Ingram v. Collins*, decided the VA must discount the positive impact of medication when issuing a disability rating.

The rule stated that the methodology dictated by the courts set a standard that was “unquantifiable, hypothetical [and] unwarranted.”

The major veterans groups, including Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion strongly objected to ruling, which they said was crafted without any input from veterans outside the VA.

Nearly 20,000 veterans and advocates have flooded the Federal Register’s comment section on the rule, saying it would hurt veterans.

VETERANS IN CRISIS OR CONCERNED ABOUT ONE? 24/7, CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS SUPPORT FOR VETERANS AND THEIR LOVED ONES

BE THE ONE

To ASK veterans in your life how they are doing

To LISTEN when a veteran needs to talk

To REACH OUT when a veteran is struggling



TEXT: 838255

Chat Online: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>

FROM THE OBVERSATON POST



“We Make Our Decisions. And Then Our Decisions Turn Around And Make Us.”

— F. W. Boreham



- Anyone living in Chesapeake and needs a ride to our Detachment's meetings or activities, please contact us at ChesapeakeMCL@gmail.com or call or text one of our officers.
 - I-RIDE, a service from the Peninsula Agency on Aging, offers rides to and from local VA clinics at no charge to veterans age 60 and over. The clinics include those in Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, and the newest one, the North Battlefield VA Clinic at 70 Knells Ridge Blvd, Chesapeake. You can book your ride at (757) 461-9481. **Make the appointment today!**
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***ATTENTION ON DECK!
DETACHMENT 853 NEWEST MEMBER:
VINCENT AMOS
OORAH!***



OUR MARINE CORPS

18 Dec 2025 | Marine Corps Training and Education Command

Photo by Cpl. Sarah Grawcock



Marine Corps Announces Updated Physical Fitness Standards

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VIRGINIA -- The Marine Corps is implementing changes to its Physical Fitness Test and body composition standards in accordance with the Secretary of War's Military Fitness Standards memorandum issued on Sept. 30, 2025. These changes, announced in MARADMIN 613/25, will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

The Marine Corps will institute sex-neutral scoring for the Physical Fitness Test for Marines in with a combat arms Primary Military Occupational Specialties. The PFT will require combat arms Marines to achieve a minimum score of 210 points (70% of the total possible points) using the male, age-normed scoring standard outlined in Marine Corps Order 6100.13A. The PFT will continue to be administered annually, from Jan. 1 to June 30. Non-combat arms Marines will continue to follow existing sex- and age-normed standards.

The new PFT standards reflects the unique physical demands of combat arms roles, ensuring Marines are prepared for the sustained physical performance required in direct combat. Those who do not meet the 210-point requirement by the end of the reporting period will be assigned to remedial physical training and may be subject to PMOS reclassification and / or promotion restriction.

“Our combat arms MOSs require rigorous physical readiness for direct ground combat,” said Col. James Derrick, Director, Training Standards Division at Training and Education Command. “These changes ensure all combat arms Marines meet the same high sex-neutral standards.”

The Marine Corps is also revising its body composition evaluation process. The current height and weight standards, along with the tape test, will be replaced by a waist-to-height ratio methodology. The Marine Corps will publish service-specific standards upon receipt of additional SECWAR guidance. In the interim, the current height/weight and tape tests will continue, with bioelectrical impedance analysis used for additional assessments when necessary.



THE MARINES



"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight!"

~ MGen Frank E. Lowe, USA;

Korea, 26 January 1952

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

