



The Scuttlebutt



Alamo Detachment



DECEMBER 2011

Vol. 19 Issue 12

HONOR – COURAGE – COMMITMENT COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Marines and Associates,

We have two events next week, The Wounded Warrior Christmas party on December 14 and the Alamo Detachment Christmas Party/Awards Night on December 17.

Wounded Warrior Christmas Party (12/14/2011):

Bob Otto has the lead on that. Our Marine Helping Marine Program is funding the party thanks to a generous donation from Valero. The party starts at 1700 at the Wounded Warrior Family Support Center at BAMC. A turkey dinner with trimmings will be served and there will be gifts for the Wounded Warriors and their children. The Toys for Tots Marines are donating toys for the children. We have \$25.00 gift cards to pass out to the Wounded Warriors. We need volunteers to help at the party. We are also asking the SA Young Marines to participate to give them some exposure.

Alamo Detachment Christmas Party & Awards Night (12/17/2011):

Jose Martinez and Humberto Reyes have the lead. The party will be held at the American Legion Post 2 on Fredericksburg Rd. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for their big help. The main entrees are brisquet & Tamales with side dishes. There will be music provided by DJ Paul Bueno. Paul is a retired Marine MSgt who works at the MarDet at BAMC. There will be a door prize for a lucky person. Those desiring to donate food items or dishes please contact Jose or Humberto. They ask for volunteers to help set up at the lounge at the post for the party.

Detachment awards will be presented after dinner. Joins us to celebrate Christmas and have an enjoyable evening.

Semper Fi,
Felix Conde Jr,
Cmdt, Alamo Det

PS

I will be out of town on a family funeral, will be back by Monday.

Please help the Toys for Tots Marines if you can.

If you are attending the Detachment Christmas Party/Awards Night, please let Jose Martinez know so he can plan on enough food for all. His phone number is 210.254.2271 and his email address is jmoorah@att.net.

See you at the Christmas party for Wounded Warriors and the Det Christmas Party.

Semper Fi
Felix Conde Jr

OFFICERS – 2011

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The Scuttlebutt is published monthly by Alamo Detachment 315 of the Marine Corps League, P. O. Box 831641, San Antonio, Texas 78283-1641.

Submit news articles to editor, Carlos M. Vargas, 132 Stratford Ct., San Antonio, Texas 78223-2024, (210) 532-3783 or cm_vargas@sbcglobal.net.

DEADLINE: for submitting news articles is the 15th of each month.

The monthly meetings of the Alamo Detachment will be held at 0900 on the 4th Saturday of the month temporarily until further notice. Meetings are held at the MPAT bldg at the rear of the Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Training Center. 3837 Binz Engleman Rd., San Antonio, Texas

**MINUTES OF 26 NOVEMBER 2011
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, ALAMO DETACHMENT 315
U. S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE TRAINING
CENTER
3837 BENZ ENGLEMAN RD, San ANTONIO TEXAS**

OPENING CEREMONY: COMMANDANT FELIX CONDE CALLED MEETING TO ORDER AT 0905 ACCORDING TO RITUAL.

ROLL CALL CALL OF OFFICERS: THE SGT AT ARMS WAS ABSENT. ALL OTHER OFFICERS WERE PRESENT.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PUBLISHED.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT: PAYMASTER'S REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ SUBJECT TO AUDIT.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT: MARINE RICHARD MUNOZ SUFFERED A STROKE AND IS RECOVERING AT HOME.

REPORT OF OFFICERS: DETACHMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY CO-CHAIRMAN JOSE MARTINEZ REMINDED ALL MARINES ABOUT THE DETAILS.

DATE – DECEMBER 17, 2011

LOCATION – AMERICAN LEGION ALAMO POST 2 - 3518 FREDERICKSBURG RD

TIME – 1800 / 1900 DINNER

AWARDS WILL BE AWARDED FOLLOWING DINNER THERE WILL BE A DOOR PRIZE

NEW BUSINESS: AN OFFICER ELECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE WAS SELECTED. THE FOLLOWING MARINES WERE APPOINTED:

CARLOS VARGAS
CARLOS ESPINOZA
CARLOS QUIJANO
JOE MORALES
ALEX ROSEL

A PAYMASTER'S AUDIT COMMITTEE WAS ALSO SELECTED. THE FOLLOWING MARINES WERE APPOINTED:

CARLOS VARGAS
LOUIS HERRERA
JULIA DE GRACE

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: A WOUNDED WORRIER CHRISTMAS PARTY IS SCHEDULED FOR DEC 14, 2011 AT 1700. THE PARTY WILL BE HELD IN THE FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER. NEED SERVERS TO HELP ON THE SERVING LINE. WE WILL ALSO NEED A CLEAN-UP CREW. DRESS WILL BE RED SHIRTS – NO COVERS.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 0955

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

HUMBERTO C REYES

ADJUTANT

MCL ALAMO DETACHMENT PISTOL / RIFLE SHOOTING TEAM

Marine Julia DeGrace, an NRA pistol/rifle/shotgun, and Texas CHL instructor, wants to assemble a pistol and a rifle shooting team to represent the Alamo Detachment in the 2012 Marine Corps League National Postal Match. Interested Marines may contact Julia at 210-380-4064 or email juliadegrace@hotmail.com for more info or to sign up.

WHAT: A postal match is one where shooters from all over the country shoot at their local ranges. Their shooting scores are verified by other Marines and the Detachment Commandant signs off on them. Score sheets are then mailed to Marine Corps League National Headquarters to be compared and ranked against all other shooters' scores.

WHEN: Rules state shooting can be done between March and October 2012, We should expect to practice as weather allows until March and shoot for qualification from March to no later than May, before it starts to get Texas hot outside.

WHY: For the fun of it, of course! Also to prove to ourselves that we still have what it takes to be a Marine. "What counts is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. It is the hits that count. We will hit!"

HOW: The pistol match is fired from 25 yards at a B-8 target having a black bulls-eye with 9-ring. The 9 ring is 1 1/2 inches in diameter. The 10-ring is 3 1/4 inches in diameter. The x-ring is 1 5/8 inches in diameter. The National Marksmanship Chairman confirmed we can use a two-handed combat standing or crouched stance. Course of fire is a total of 50 rounds, 10 rounds are fired in slow fire (10 rounds in 10 minutes), 20 rounds are fired in 5-round timed-fire strings (5 rounds in 20 seconds), and 20 rounds are fired in 5-round rapid-fire strings (5 rounds in 10 seconds). Only general issue military side arms may be used. Some acceptable handguns are: 45 caliber 1911's in 5-inch and officers' models from any manufacturer; the M-9 9mm Beretta 92S or 92F and Taurus PT92 or PT98; the M-10 38-special 2-inch & 4-inch revolvers from Smith & Wesson, Colt, or Ruger; the M-11 Sig Sauer P228, P229, & P226, P239; and the newly adopted Glock model 21 in 45 caliber. **Any nation's military handgun is OK.** Grips must be of standard issue design. No finger-groove or thumb-rest grips. Open iron sights must be used; no ghost-rings, red-dot scopes, or lasers permitted.

The rifle match rules and instructions published on the MCL national web site are not as clear as they are for the pistol match. Marine National Marksmanship Chairman Ernest Simmons, who seemed to not be a shooter himself, explained best he could that all shooting will be done at 100 yards using special military competition targets that compensate for the standard 200, 300, and 600 yard military targets by being smaller. Course of fire is a total of 50 rounds. 10 rounds are in offhand and 10 rounds are in kneeling using the SR-1 target. The SR-1's 9-ring black bulls-eye is 6 3/8 inches in diameter. 10 rounds are in sitting using the SR-21 target. 20 rounds are in prone using the MR-31 target. All shooting is in slow fire allowing 1 minute per round (1.3 minutes per round in offhand). Only general issue military rifles with iron sights may be used. Some acceptable rifles, or their civilian counterparts, are acceptable: Springfield 1903, M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, M14/M1A, M16/AR-15. No scopes, red-dots, or lasers permitted. **Any nation's military rifle is OK.**

WHO: A team will consist of 5 members. If only 4 shooters are available for a team, a "ghost" member will be assigned and will have a score compiled from the average of the 4 live team members. 3 or fewer shooters will compete in the national match as individuals. The National Postal Match has both team awards and individual awards.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU: 1. Personal satisfaction. 2. Recognition of your marksmanship skill. 3. Individual and/or team classification awards as follows depending on our scores: Marksman 001-249, Sharpshooter 250-299, Expert 300-399, Master 400-449, High Master 450-500. 4. Another excuse to your spouse for why you must go to the range to shoot.

WHO'S THE COMPETITION: This year 17 detachments fielded teams and about 500 individuals entered the competition.

PLEASE NOTE: Marine Ernest Simmons, the marine in charge of this national postal match, is passing the reins on to someone new in mid-February 2012. I've been informed there may be some updates and/or changes in the rules at that time. We will **ADAPT** to those changes when, and if, they come.

NRA MEMBERS: may qualify for the Winchester/NRA marksmanship program awards while practicing for this match

MCL ALAMO DETACHMENT PISTOL / RIFLE SHOOTING TEAM PRACTICE RANGES INFORMATION

Information compiled by Julia DeGrace as of Nov 27, 2011

PISTOL and RIFLE PRACTICE:

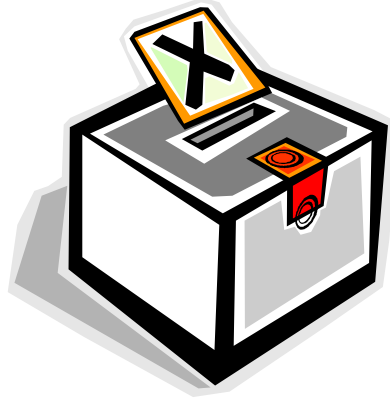
INDOOR RANGES (2):

Texas Thunder Range, 7128 Bandera Road, 2 ½ miles outside Loop 410, 210-509-7484: This is an expensive range to shoot at, but it does have advantages that may be worth the cost at some times to some shooters. It is the most state-of-the-art range. Targets are controlled by individual computers that move targets to any selected downrange position. Targets can be programmed to turn toward and away from shooters in any desired time sequence for timed-fire and rapid-fire drills. The Range Safety Officer is very helpful with targets, ammo, coaching, and policing brass. **There are 12 lanes, 6 are approved for rifles. All lanes are only 15 yards long;** suitable for practice of pistol and rifle, and for NRA marksmanship qualification, but not suitable for actual MCL Postal Match shooting which must be done at 25 yards. **Hours of operation are 7 days/wk, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. The range can be open until 10:00 pm daily with 24-hour notice.** RSOs on duty will vary depending on day and time. **Cost to shoot is \$25.00 to stay as long as you want. Ammunition MUST be purchased at the range (no exceptions)** at a cost about 2 to 2 ½ times the cost for the exact same ammo purchased at WalMart. An annual membership is available for \$385 plus a refundable \$100 security deposit. Members may book range time in advance and members' ammunition cost is discounted 20%. Lanes for walk-ins are generally available at any time except 10:00–2:00 on two CHL class Saturdays/month. Firearms brought into the range are safety checked at the RSO office just outside the firing lanes; the RSO then takes your firearms to your assigned lane. Photos of the facility can be found at texasthunderrange.com

Bass Pro Shop Range, 17907 IH-10 West, ½ mile outside Loop 1604, 210-253-8800: This is a more affordable indoor range at its normal pricing schedule. I have arranged for even further discount pricing for our MCL Detachment shooting-team members. Targets at this range can only be run back and forth controlled by a toggle switch and stopped by you at distance markers painted on the walls of the lanes. Nothing fancy here; shooters are expected to police-up their brass and tend to general housekeeping. **There are 6 lanes; 4 are 15 yards long and 2 are 30 yards long.** We can practice pistol or rifle, and shoot NRA qualification, in any of the lanes. We can shoot MCL match qualification at 25 yards in the two longer lanes. **Hours of operation are limited to Wednesday-Friday 12:00 noon-6:00 pm (closed 3:00-4:30 for RSO's lunch), Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm (closed 12:00-1:00 for RSO's lunch), and Sunday 10:30 am-5:00 pm (closed 12:00-1:00 for RSO's lunch).** These are the Range Safety Officer, Lee Hughes', working hours. Lee is the only RSO. He monitors the lanes with video, from his counter in the store just outside the soundproofed firing area. This range is busy; Lee has no time for coaching. Cost to shoot is normally \$10/half-hour & \$20/hour. **Cost to shoot for Detachment Shooting Team members is only \$6/half-hour & \$12/hour** (just show your MCL ID card and mention the shooting team). **Ammunition can come from any gun shop, the Bass Pro Shop, internet stores, or even WalMart,** as long as it is factory-fresh ammo. Ammo must be approved by the RSO; most standard ammo will be approved. An annual membership is available for \$100. (a good deal!!) Range use is by appointment only. Range time books up fast so plan to book ahead. Call 210-253-8800 to make your appointment with the store's telephone operator. There are two protocols for bringing firearms into the store: (1) CHL holders can bring unloaded handguns, concealed in your range bag, directly to the 2nd floor shooting range counter. (2) non-CHL holders' handguns and all persons' rifles must be safety checked at the store entrance where they will be fitted with a Bass Pro Shop trigger lock that will be removed by the RSO at the shooting range counter. Leaving the store will require the same trigger-lock procedure in reverse. **HEARING SAFETY NOTE: The soundproofing and the diamond-plate aluminum walls in the shooting lanes makes gunshots seem much louder than at other ranges. Wear the absolute best hearing protection you can. I'm using ear plugs with earmuffs over them.**

The next regular meeting for the Detachment will be on 07 January 2012. Have a merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Hope to see you at the party.

Remember that elections for officers will be held at this meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken after the nominating committee introduces the slate they have chosen.



December members.....08 – Mary rose Elizondo; 14 – Henrietta Vargas; 14 – Louis Herrera, Sr.; 16 – Charles Graustein; 21 – Kim Fieldhassen; 24 – Jeanette Reininger and 31 – Edward Valdez

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
ALAMO DETACHMENT 315
P.O. BOX 831641
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78283-1641
Address Service Requested



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

NAME _____ SPOUSES NAME _____ DATE _____
 STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____
 PHONE (____) _____ CELL PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
 DATE OF BIRTH _____ DATE OF ENLISTMENT/COMMISSION _____ DATE OF DISCHARGE/RETIREMENT _____
 SERVICE NO. _____ OR SSN _____

I hereby apply for **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP** in the **ALAMO DETACHMENT 315** of the Marine Corps League, and enclose **\$35.00** for one year's membership. I hereby certify that I have served more than 90 days as a U.S. Marine or that I have served more than 90 days as Naval Medical Personnel with Marine FMF Units and have earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp) worn on Service Ribbon and have earned the Warfare Device authorized for FMF Corpsmen, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged I am in receipt of an Honorable Discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of my service and Honorable Discharge upon request.

(SPONSOR) _____ (APPLICANTS SIGNATURE) _____

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP: REGULAR MEMBERS

I _____, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being aware of the symbols, motto, principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League, do solemnly swear that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the League to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong, injure or permit any member of any member's family to be wrong or injured if to prevent same is within my power. I will never propose for membership one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent and honorable person and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League. So help me, God.

<<<< OR >>>>

I hereby apply for **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** in the **ALAMO DETACHMENT 315**, of the Marine Corps League, and enclose **\$35.00** for one year's membership. I hereby certify that I espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League.

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ SPOUSES NAME _____
 STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
 (SPONSOR) _____ (APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE) _____ DATE _____

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

I _____, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the Marine Corps League here assembled, being fully aware that as an Associate Member I will not be permitted to hold and elective office or to vote on Marine Corps League policy, a membership application or on election of officers, do solemnly swear that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive or defraud the league to the value of anything. I will never knowingly wrong, injure or permit any member's family to be wronged or injured if to prevent same is within my power. I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life in a manner becoming a decent and honorable person, and will never knowingly bring discredit to the league. So help me, God.

Mail completed application and \$35.00 check payable to Alamo Detachment, Marine Corps League to Adjutant/Paymaster, Alamo Detachment, MCL 315, P.O. BOX 831641, San Antonio, TX 78283-1641