



The Log

NAVY LEAGUE
of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"



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January 2005

Ahoy Navy Leaguers!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope all of you were surrounded by those that you love, during the holidays. The Tri-City Board is back to work. I have a few changes to report before I brief you on the December council meeting.

As you know, Chuck Baumbach will soon be sworn in as your new president for 2005. The ceremony will take place in February, along with Sea Cadet of the Year award. On Saturday, January 15, I will be observing Annual Regional Pass Review for GUNFIGHTER Squadron. Training Ship TOPGUN Cadets will be present as well as ALL of the Cadets from FORT FISHER Division, CORONADO Battalion, CHALLENGER Division, Training Ship ESSEX, Training Ship BELLEAU WOOD, and Training Ship COLUMBIA. The Sea Cadet Gunfighter Squadron is a recipient of support from the Tri-City Council. The training programs provide various opportunities for ages 8-18, such as hands-on maintenance on FA-18's and learning about military life aboard ship. The program turns out quality individuals with practical skills, considered at enlistment. Annually 10% of the squad enlists in some branch the military. Our council will continue to support the Gun Fighter Squadron as they prepare for 2005.

At the December 16th council meeting, we were fortunate to have 1st Lt. Beverly Miramontes, USMC. Lt. Miramontes has been serving in Public Affairs, aboard Camp Pendleton for the last 3 years. Having returned from deployment in Iraq in 2004, she discussed her experience as she served as liaison to the media and directly supported the activities of a General. We learned about the challenges of her job and how she overcame them. We also learned that media is given access to many situations and operations, that fail to get reported. Lt. Miramontes has been in the Marine Corp for 14 years and grew up in Florida. We thank her for her service and for educating us on some very important aspects of military protocol.

Join us next month as we tour Camp Pendleton and observe special training our Marines and Sailors undergo to keep them prepared to defend us at any time. Lunch will be in the mess, with the rest of the troops! Casual Dress. See you there! Deborah

Next Tri-City Council Navy League meeting
Wednesday, January 26
Aboard Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA

Subject
Action-packed tour and training demos
09:00:00 – 15:00:00

OTHER NEWS:

- K** My sincere thanks for your unselfish support to our wounded Marines and Sailors. The Tri-City Council has raised over \$1000 for the Semper Fi Fund. We will continue our fund raising effort, as our warriors return from battle. They are in need of our support and prayers more than ever. So important is the Semper Fi Fund, Colonel Hampton, the Chief of Staff from Camp Pendleton, stopped by to purchase a large number of raffle tickets. Guess who won the blanket I sewed for the event?
- K** Our January meeting (January 26) will be aboard Camp Pendleton and will include special training demonstrations and a memorable tour, with lunch at the mess. **Meet us at the main gate at 9 am sharp.** For more information contact Chuck Baumbach at (760) 519-9912. The cost is \$10.
A portion of the proceeds will go to the Semper Fi Fund.



The Tri-City Council would like to thank those of you who contributed to the Semper Fi Fund.



When President Bush was sworn into office in 2001, plans called for him to use the original Bible used by George Washington for his swearing in ceremony, as did his father, George H.W. Bush. When weather conditions prohibited the use of the Bible, a Bush family Bible was used. The Bush family Bible has been selected for use again this year.

In addition, many parts of the inaugural week festivities include worship and prayer including a private worship service early in the morning of the 20th, and a national prayer service in the National Cathedral the next day. The image shows the Bible used by George Washington as he took the Oath of Office.

Above all, I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men and whose goodness and mercy have always followed the American people and I know He will not turn from us now if we humbly and reverently seek His powerful aid. ---Grover Cleveland, 2nd Inaugural Address, March 4, 1893

Pray without ceasing for our military, as the elections in Iraq are quickly approaching. And pray also for the Iraqi patriots, who are eagerly awaiting their first election. God be with us all, as freedom rings in Iraq.

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Jan. 15, 2005 – People in Iraq want to vote in the elections for the country's national assembly on Jan. 30, the commander of coalition forces in Ninewa province said at a news conference today.

Army Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, Task Force Olympia commander, said anecdotal evidence suggests Iraqis in Mosul "have the desire to vote. But they don't yet know how, or the mechanisms. We've got to work on that." Ham said the coalition is working with the Independent Election Commission of Iraq to solve those problems. Elections were dealt a setback in November when the police force in Mosul – a city of 2 million people – melted before insurgent attacks.

Still, Ham said, he believes the mechanisms will be in place for those who want to vote. "The greatest problem will be to overcome (the insurgent) intimidation," he said. "We must convince the average Iraqi that on the morning of the 30th it will be safe for him, his wife and his family to walk outside his house and vote without the fear of being attacked."

Ham said the turnout in the countryside will be higher than in Mosul. But even in the city, it will be high in some neighborhoods and low in others. "I hesitate to put a percentage on it," he said. Ham said his troops – members of Task Force Olympia – will work to destroy insurgent cells and to stop insurgent intimidation. Ham said that holding the election in Ninewa "will not be easy, but it will be done."

More than 12,000 multinational forces are in the province. Iraqi soldiers and National Guardsmen are coming in from other parts of the country. "The challenge we all have in Mosul right now," he said, "is absent the credible and capable police force that is necessary in a city that large, the lack is being compensated by additional resources -- the army and the National Guard ... special police forces and intervention forces and other forces from the Ministry of the Interior. All told, (the additional resources add up to) about 12,000, and about 4,000 are from outside the province." On the day of the election, Ham said, there will be enough Iraqi security forces in Mosul to protect the polling stations. About 1,000 to 1,200 police did not run away in November, and they are still on the job. The 12,000 Iraqi army soldiers and National Guardsmen will make up the difference.

Coalition forces will respond to circumstances that the Iraqi forces cannot handle, Ham said. "We will support those security forces, help them with area security, provide quick-reaction forces and to help set the conditions in the days leading up to the elections so we can make the situation as stable as we can make it," he said.

Ham said that some of the insurgents in Mosul have come from Fallujah. "Our first warning about this came from a special police unit that had quite a battle with some insurgents," Ham said during a later interview with American Forces Press Service. "They recognized the speech patterns and told us 'Hey, these guys are from Fallujah.'" Ham also said there is some evidence that insurgents in Mosul are receiving money and other aid from former regime members in Syria.



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund

Serving Those Who Preserve Our Freedom

Christopher's Story, Lieutenant, USMC, California

Fund Aids Wounded Marines and Sailors Families on Road to Recovery

Semper Fi Fund Provides Assistance To Marines, Sailors

SAN DIEGO -- Hundreds of Marines returning from the war in Iraq face long-term rehabilitation and recovery.

The Semper Fi Fund is helping wounded Marines and their families during their recovery.

Five months into his second deployment, Cpl. Alex Sargent, like so many 3rd battalion 1st Marines from Camp Pendleton, wound up in the Battle for Fallujah.

His mission was to conduct house-to-house searches for insurgents and weapons.

During a second sweep to see if they had missed anything, Sargent found out they had. "I went in with a few other guys to clear this one house ... we went in and there was a guy waiting for us and he saw us before we saw him," Sargent told 10News.

The two Marines with Sargent were killed. Sargent was hit in the arm and leg with AK-47 bullets

When Maura Sargent, Alex Sargent's bride back in Maine, heard the news that her husband was injured, she practically jumped on a plane to the West Coast.

"From the moment I heard, I had to drop everything. I packed in five minutes and

essentially my life stopped on the East Coast," Maura Sargent said.

The Sargents had to pay for plane tickets, hotels and other transportation. Alex Sargent would have an extended stay in the hospital. Luckily, the Semper Fi Fund helped the Sargents.

"Whether it's for the mother, father, sister or brother, (the goal) is to keep the family at the bedside," said Karen Gunther, one of the founders of the Semper Fi Fund.

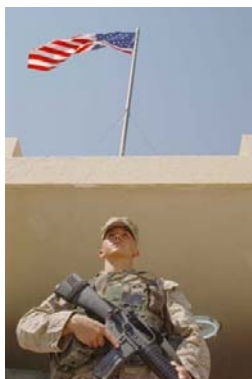
Gunther was a nurse at the medical center at Camp Pendleton with a husband who is a Marine. She felt she could be in the same position as many of the Marines she was seeing, so an idea was born.

"Strangers are sending in large donations -- small to large -- it takes all of that to keep it going but every day we're surprised," Gunther said. Fund aids families of wounded

By: TERI FIGUEROA - Staff Writer

Karen Guenther remembers the names Lance Cpl. Michael Paine, Pfc. James Olson and Sgt. Andrew Gallagher. She also knows their stories. In fact, she remembers each of the Marines and sailors that the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has helped. Guenther was one of four military wives with ties to Camp Pendleton who started the fund in the spring. As of Wednesday morning, the grassroots fund has given away grants totaling \$635,000 to help 445 families of injured military personnel. "It wasn't that long ago that we had \$5,000 and three cases, and didn't know how we were going to help the next family," Guenther said. Families of the wounded often drop everything to rush to the bedsides of their injured loved ones, but few are ready for the expense. Airline tickets, hotels, car rentals, and food bills stack up, Guenther said. Enter the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, which raises money and funnels it to the families to help pick up the cost of expenses during their stays. While the majority of its cases have been Camp Pendleton Marines, Guenther said the fund helps injured Marines and sailors nationwide. The organization is now working with nine different hospitals across the country. The amount of assistance to individual families depends on the nature of the Marine's injuries, the length of the person's hospital stay and the needs of the families, Guenther said. Money from the fund is usually given to families within 72 hours of the time they apply. The families of Paine, Olson and Gallagher received a total of more than \$2,500. Olson said it covered the flight and rental car for his Minnesota-based parents. His dad is a farmer and his mom is a homemaker. Gallagher's folks received enough to cover expenses for the drive from Phoenix and their stay in San Diego County. People give what they can ---- she remembers opening up one envelope that contained five \$1 bills. "That is when I saw flights (with wounded troops) coming in. It was very personal for me. The name of the fund comes from the Marine Corps motto: Semper Fidelis, Latin for "always faithful." "That is the way that we feel," Guenther said. "Always faithful."

Navy League Tri-City Council
Attn: Carol Grice Tri-City Council Secretary
P.O. BOX 339
Fallbrook, CA 92088-0339



Please help support the Semper Fi Fund. In doing so you will be assisting wounded Marines and Sailors with family expenses, through recovery from battle wounds. Our warriors deserve all the help we can give them, after giving their best to keep us safe. Thanks so much for your unselfish support.



RESERVATIONS
Come and join in the fun!!!
Make your reservation today!

January 26, 2004
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
CAMP PENDLETON MAIN GATE
OCEANSIDE, CA

YES: I will attend. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$10 per person).

NAME _____ GUEST/GUESTS _____

NO: I am unable to attend but would like to contribute to the support of:

- Marine Corp Birthday Ball 2005 \$ _____
- SEA CADETS \$ _____
- ACU-5 \$ _____
- Semper Fi Fund \$ _____
- Operation Interdependence [OI Delivers] \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____

Make Check Payable To: NAVY LEAGUE TRI-CITY COUNCIL

Mail To:
Navy League Tri-City Council
(Attn: Deborah Tri-City Council President)
5297 Hanover Dr.
Cypress, CA 90630

If you wish to pay at the door, please email reservations to: deborah.c.romero@boeing.com and indicate the number in your party, or call Deborah at (714) 896-2955
Please cancel your reservation if you cannot make it. Reservations not cancelled will be expected to pay.