



**Date:02-23-2021**

**Department of Arizona;**

### **Mid-Winter Report**

**As I close the first year as Commandant of the Department of Arizona, I find that the challenges have been significant both professionally and in my personal life. I believe that, as a viable team, we have met the challenges and significantly improved the operating posture of our Department. I have instituted a procedure whereby I send a monthly Commandant's Message to all hands which displays significant activity for the month and provides transparency and guidance to all. In addition, we have an outstanding nucleus of Department elected and appointed staff officers who are knowledgeable, proficient, and dedicated to getting the job done. We are most fortunate in that regard.**

**COVID-19 has cost us approximately 7 deaths this year, and we are seeing signs that things are getting better. Arizona virus statistics are revealing that the numbers are decreasing, and the state is releasing more options for us to have a little more freedom insofar as restrictions are concerned. Sadly, we lost our Jr. Past Commandant, Marine John Rodriguez, this year to severe medical problems as well as Marine Andy Lopez, Commandant of the Tucson #007 Detachment, both victims of the COVID virus.**

**At present, we are preparing for our annual Spring Conference in Tucson, AZ on 5-6 March with a live open meeting that will accommodate social distancing as well as other safety measures for all concerned. It is our desire to accomplish needed Department business as well as accommodating to the safety of all concerned.**

**In addition, we are planning and preparing for our Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will take place on 22 October 2022. Our members have designed a proposed challenge coin and ribbon and are working on a possible neck ribbon and medal commemorating the occasion. Thus far, we have two proposals up for consideration. We have established a cut-off date of 30 June for all proposals to be submitted for consideration. Proposals will be assessed, and a vote taken to select the winning submission. The winning designer will receive a lasting memory plaque to mark the occasion.**

**Our Department Traveling Recruiting Trophy will, once again, be awarded to the Detachment with the best recruiting percentages at the Summer Convention. The winning detachment will have the honor of holding that trophy for an additional year or more if they can win consecutive awards.**

**This concludes my Mid-Winter Report, and, on behalf of our Department Staff and all members, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to you for your patience, time, and assistance as we continue forward in the best interests of our League and all members.**

*Semper Fidelis,*

**Lawrence "Larry" Brown,  
Commandant  
Department of Arizona, Marine Corps League  
[www.deptazmcl.org](http://www.deptazmcl.org)**

**( Saepius Exertus, "Semper Fidelis", Frater Infinitas,)  
("Often tested", "Always Faithful", "Brothers Forever".)**