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03 Aug 2026

To: National Commandant, T. J. Morgan

Subject: 2026 National Convention Report for Mideast Division

Overview- The Mideast Division consists of five states: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Each department has received at least one visit in the last year. All Departments have held their annual conferences and elections and all ROI's have been submitted.

Membership- Recruiting as always is a focus for our division but I am placing retention as one of our main focuses this year. We are discussing how to recruit and retain younger members to carry the torch for the Division. Several of our Departments attended the Jr Vice Commandants Zoom call earlier this year and have already started sharing ideas. Bob Borka has also brought his roadshow to the Mideast Division, and we discussed many ideas to improve retention across the division.

VSO Accreditation – The Division has several accredited VSO's who continue to do an outstanding job. They are preparing to do a Division wide "road show" this year as you will see in the attached VSO report.

Communication and Compliance- I have installed a new Division Compliance Officer who is working with my ADNVC and Adjutant as well as each Department to ensure that all PLM audits, 990's and annual corporate reports are filed timely and any that are overdue or that have been delinquent for some time, are dealt with appropriately.

In closing, I am very proud to serve the Mideast Division, as they are a great group who stays very busy in their communities as you can see from some of the reports attached below. Lastly, I wanted to say that it has been a pleasure serving with you as our National Commandant. You have the League going in the right direction and we hope to continue that progress.

Semper Fidelis,

Ronald S Kirby

The Veteran Services has been growing and producing strong results within the Mideast Division and across National. The Veterans Service Officers (VSO) have been working diligently with the veterans, assisting with not only starting or upgrading their disability claims, but also with the character of discharge upgrades, survivor benefits, and some educational assistance. The Marine Corps League is now receiving referrals from the Veterans Administration, local law firms, and other veteran organizations. As Department Commandants, you should be proud of those members who have stood up to represent the mission of the Marine Corps League.

Now that we are moving forward, I want to announce what is going to happen at the National Convention in Indianapolis. For the entire week, a few VSOs will be hosting a Veterans Claims Clinic. Whether you are starting a disability claim for the first time, looking for a disability increase, or assistance with an appeal, we will be there to provide assistance. Beginning the Wednesday of that week, the VA will also be onsite to review the claims, if possible, conduct C&P exams, and potentially get you an answer before the convention ends on that Friday.

In addition, after the convention concludes, I will be planning on travelling across our Division, attending your Department meetings to talk about what we do as Veterans Service Officers. I will also attend Detachment meetings to do the same if requested. So, if you do not have your event schedule posted on a website or social media, please provide me the dates and locations of your future meetings, and I will get them on my calendar.

I want to thank each of the Department Commandants for supporting this much-needed and valuable program. I look forward to hearing from everyone, and I'll see you in Indy.

Semper Fi,



Robert Hare

National Veterans Service Officer

VA Accreditation #60748

Mideast Division (NC, VA, WV, DE, MD)

Marine Corps League

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND



July 28, 2026

From: Commandant

To: Mideast Division Vice Commandant

Subj: Department Highlight Report July 2026

The Department of Maryland continues to be active in communities throughout the state. Detachments represent the Marine Corps League at various parades, celebrations, and remembrances including Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Marine Corps Birthdays, Veterans Day, Toys For Tots, and Wreaths Across America.

The Sgt John "Jack" Hettchen Detachment 1428 participated in the City of Rockville Public Safety Awards and the Germantown-Gaithersburg Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards, where they presented more than **100 Distinguished Service Awards** to outstanding police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel in recognition of their dedication, professionalism, and service to our communities.

They continued their **humanitarian efforts** by delivering medical supplies, food, and other essential items to the Washington, DC Ukrainian Humanitarian Center, providing meaningful assistance to those affected by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

The Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 continued to support social gatherings for Marines and their family members in the form of monthly dinners and recreational shooting nights at a local range. These events provided an opportunity for unstructured social time and some low-key competition at the range. These events also act as recruiting tools.

The detachment joined the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion (MCSB) to celebrate the 250th Marine Corps Birthday at the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico Va on 14 November 2025.

The detachment maintains a close relationship with the **Young Marines** and often participates in joint events. The detachment commandant sits on their Young Marine of the Year Board.

The Garrett County Detachment 1234 is the department's most remote detachment but is known as one of the most active. They host one of the best golf tournaments in the state and raised over \$30,000 this year. They were able to donate \$5000 to each of their six

beneficiaries; Toys for Tots, Hospice of Garrett County, Garrett County Meals on Wheels, Cindy's Fund, Garrett Mentors and the Marine Raider Foundation.

The Patuxent River Detachment 1305 hosted numerous Charlotte Hall Veterans Home events including cook-outs, pizza nights, Halloween Bingo, and a Marine Corps Birthday celebration. They also participated in the Southern Maryland Gold Star Memorial Golf Tournament, Paralyzed Veterans Bass Tournament, and various festivals. Many of these events were conducted jointly with the **Young Marines**.

The LCpl Robert W Deane Detachment 770 conducted five hotdog sales events and set up recruiting tent at the 4 County Lion's carnival and the Mt Airy Volunteer Firemen's carnival. They also performed Honor Guard duties for the AmVets flag retirement.

The department's newest detachment is the **Peacekeeper Detachment 1492**. Their Honor Guard has conducted funeral services and presented Colors at numerous high visibility events.

The **SSgt Walter E. Cohee Detachment 115** continues to participate in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser the raised \$1800 for Chesapeake Housing, enabling them to build a **ramp for a disabled veteran**.

The department has an active state license plate program.

Presented awards at 41 Eagle Scout Courts of Honor.

Compliance data was submitted via separate correspondence.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Sturm', with a stylized, flowing script.

R. J. Sturm
Commandant



Department of North Carolina

Since returning from the 2025 MCL National Convention, the Department of North Carolina continued the charge moving forward. The detachments did amazing things for their communities as usual. Detachments that stuck out were:

Onslow County 262 in their recruitment efforts and gaining at least 2 new members each month;

Greater Greensboro 260 in achieving a huge milestone by contributing over \$1.3 million in money and in-kind donations;

John Percy Fulton 1075 in record breaking numbers during Toys for Tots, and attendees for their annual Mud Run;

Charolotte 750 & PFC Bruce Larson 1242 in supporting families in the Camp Lejuene area providing holiday meals and toys to the families either on deployment or are unable to visit their families;

Sandhills Area 1001 for a successful Toys for Tots campaign; and,

Raymond G. Davis 1162 for a record-breaking Toys for Tots campaign.

The Department held its first Leadership Academy, having approximately 40 members attend. It went much better than expected, and we have plans to continue with the training utilizing both virtual and in-person training.

Our 2025 Department Convention was held in Jacksonville with the banquet being hosted by the Carolina Museum of the Marine. We were the first organization to have an event there and were invited to come back every year for our convention. In addition, the Department Leadership attended the grand opening ceremony prior to our convention commencing. Jr. Past Commandant, Robert Hare turned over the leadership to Commandant Jim Mitchell. PDC Hare is now serving on the National Veterans Service Officer committee representing the Mideast Division.

Finally, our community participation report: VAVS hours – 2,698; Volunteer hours – 39,150; Funerals – 250; Eagle Scout awards – 151

Respectfully,

Robert Hare

Department Commandant (2024 – 2026)

1 Aug 2026

Memorandum To: Scott Kirby, NJVC Mideast Division
From: Sheri Moore, Cmdt Dept of VA
Subject: Dept of VA Report from Dets for the MCL Natl Convention 2026

Overall: The MCL Dept of Virginia hosted the MCL MED annual conference in June 2025 which was a huge undertaking. Several different Detachments assisted with this effort. The Dept has been making a concerted effort to improve overall compliance and participation in MCL events.

Det 853 Chesapeake, VA

- Distributed 45 Food Baskets to Marine And Navy Families In Norfolk, Virginia Beach, And Chesapeake,
- Sponsored A Concession Stand at Special Events In The Hampton Coliseum.
- Fostered Engagement and Collaboration With Multiple Marine And Navy Commands in the area
- Attended Chesapeake's Veterans Day Ceremony.
- Attended Chesapeake Mayor's Breakfast to Honor Veterans
- Sponsored And Attended, A Company, 4th Amphibious Assault BN And Marine Air Control Squadron 24, 2025 Marine Corps Ball.
- Participated In the Great Bridge 42nd Christmas Parade

Det 890, Winchester, VA

- We do not have a color Guard however we have members who are dual members of the League and Disabled American Veterans who have participated in over 35 funerals and Veterans Events in the area amassing over 50 hours of volunteer service by members of the Detachment.
- We have contributed over 200 hours of volunteer service hours to the Toys for Tots Campaign in the area.
- We have participated in both a Winchester/Frederick County Veterans Council Veterans Day Observance and last year's Memorial Day Event, Where I have served as the Chaiman of the council and the Master of Ceremony for both.
- Participated in the Clark County Virginia 250/Maj Lloyd Williams ("retreat, Hell we just got here") Day event on June 6th at Claremont Farms Berryville VA.

Det 1085, Lake Country

- Oct 2025: 5K Scholarship, You Are Not Alone Day, Halloween Function
- Nov 2025: Poker Run, USMC Birthday Celebration
- Dec 2025: 6th & 10th Christmas parades with Color Guard, Toys for Tots Distribution, Christmas Party
- Feb 2026: Scholarship packages to Schools
- April 2026: Southside Virginia Pound 418 Charter signing; Meet and Greet at Clarksville, Memorial Day at Clarksville Memorial Color Guard
- July 2026: 25th Anniversary of LCD 1085 Celebration

Det 1205, Loudoun, VA

- Sept 2025: 9/11 Patriot Day Flag placement in Lovettsville; Dulles Plane Pull; Leesburg Air Show recruiting
- Nov 2025: Loudoun County USMC 250th Birthday Celebration; Veterans Day Ceremonies in Lovettsville
- Dec 2025: Toys for Tots events/activities; Adopted a family at Boulder Crest
- Feb 2026: Greeting WWII Veterans during visit to NMMC for 81st anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima
- March/April 2026: Oath & Oak First Friday Veteran gatherings; Support USMC IRR event; 5-mile Military Ruck; Greet Honor Flights NMMC.
- May 2026: Vietnam Wall Washing

Det 1256, Charlottesville, VA

- Nov 2025: USMC Birthday Celebration; Toys for Tots; Multiple Veterans Day events
- Dec 2025: Detachment Christmas Party
- April 2026: Rededication of the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial
- May 2026: MCL Spring Happy Hour in Charlottesville; Memorial Day events
- June 2026: Annual Detachment picnic

Det 1317, Middle Peninsula

- Nov 2025: Marine 250th Birthday Cruise by 14 couples in the Detachment
- Dec 2025: Detachment Christmas Party & Toys for Tots
- Participated as judges at the NJROTC Drill Competition
- May 2026: Detachment trip to Quantico
- June 2026: Detachment Yard Sale; Chesty Puller Memorial on 13th at Christchurch Parish in Saluda, VA
- July 2026: Detachment Pool Party

Det 1379, Fredericksburg, VA

- Nov 2025: USMC 250th Birthday Ball; Det Color Guard's inaugural event; Toys for Tots; Veterans Day events (Parade, flag placement at local cemetery, multiple ceremonies)
- Presented awards to multiple JROTC cadets in the Spring.
- Memorial Day events
- Recruiting table at the Marine Corps Half Marathon booth
- Quantico Run/Walkathon participation/support.
- Supported local Young Marine Detachment with participation & donations.