

Southern Division Annual Report

This past year Southern Division was successful in community involvement from Toys For Tots to the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps, funeral details, assisting veterans and their families across all three states.

Department of Arkansas

The seven MCL detachments are working hard to show why they are Marines. A huge amount of teamwork and Gung-Ho ! Toys for Tots, Funeral Details, Community relationships, recruiting for new members, Fund Raising to support the Detachment Cause and the future of our detachments look bright with young members more than ever before. The young members who want to be part of the Marine Corps League.

The Sydney S. McMath detachment assisted with the Arkansas Medal of Honor Monument re-established at the state capital along with the Gold Star Family monument which was erected a few years ago. McMath membership has increased this past year.

Dale W. Langford Detachment participated in Toys for Tots and raised \$600 along with the local USMC unit for an elementary school.

Northwest Detachment in Springdale had a successful 250th birthday ball with over one hundred guests. Langford sets up recruiting tables at local events resulting in two new members.

Texarkana Detachment signed up three new members and is in a rebuilding phase. This detachment has young members and is learning and from other detachments for guidance. They were involved in twenty-one funerals this year and funded to repair a veteran members vehicle. A birthday ball and BBQ are in the planning for 2026.

Thomas Payne Detachment is the primary detail for funerals in Arkansas averaging four to ten funerals weekly. Payne Detachment averages 20,000 toys for distribution for Toys for Tots. They work closely with Quilts for Valor program annually. They have gained seven new members this year. They also teach children teenagers and adults the history of the U.S. flag that include respecting and folding the flag.

Lake Dardanelle Detachment is known for a very strong Toys for Tots campaign each year. The 2025 campaign filled a high school gymnasium. They conduct funerals around the state as needed. They have a strong close working relationship with Arkansas Tech University with their newly elected commandant Markus Trouerbach. Lake Dardanelle own their own meeting place.

Hebert Littleton Detachment Toys for Tots is a huge community event each year. A new young, elected leadership has been installed and is moving the detachment forward.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS METRICS ANNUAL REPORT MAY 1, 2025, to APR 30, 2026

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Department's area of responsibility consists of 254 Counties, in 268,820 sq miles, 9 Districts, 48 Detachments, and the support of 12 USMC Reserve Centers.

MEMBERSHIP	PAID LIFE	PAID	TOTAL PAID
MEMBERS			
REGULAR	1,183	863	2,046 (+279 from June 2025)
ASSOCIATES	143	255	398 (+74 from June 2025)
DUAL MEMBERS	8	0	8 (-7 from June 2025)
TOTAL	1,334	1,118	2,452 (+364 from June 2025)

2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION:

During the period of Apr 2023 through Aug 2025, the Department of Texas began planning the 2025 National Convention with hosting support from Tarrant County Det #731. Key events included the Sunday Meet and Greet BBQ, various Static displays to support the 250TH USMC Anniversary Theme, the very successful Medal of Honor Dinner, Rough Rider Baseball Game, President Bush '43 Library visit, and the Ft Worth Stockyard visit.

The National Convention Banquet was also a major success including an ensemble orchestra provided by MarForRes from New Orleans who provided ceremony and dinner music. A Cake Cutting Ceremony and a well-received and delicious Dinner were served.

CAKE CUTTING CEREMONIES:

In September of 2024, the Department was tasked to begin planning a cake cutting ceremony on Nov 10, 2025, at the Texas State Capital in Austin. Working with the Texas Veteran Commissioner, Chuck Wright.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS 1616 E GRIFFIN PKWY PMB #233 MISSION TX 78572-3180

1 Calculated as [Tot Community Service Hours per activity] x [Number of Detachment Members Participating] = [Tot Volunteer Hours] 2 Value of Volunteer Time 2025: <https://independentsector.org> – Calculated as [Tot Volunteer Hours] x [Value of Vol Time (33.59)]

Wright (LCpl Jacob D Hayes Detachment #1426) and Governor Abbott's staff, we executed a very successful and well attended event at the rotunda of the Texas State Capital.

The nine District Vice Commandants along with their local Detachments coordinated the various Cake Cutting Ceremonies Nov 10, 2025, in all the major City and County Seats throughout Texas.

NAVY FLEET WEEK HOUSTON:

In April of 2026, the Alberto Angel Avalos Detachment #671 was selected by the City of Houston to be one of the vendors for the Houston Navy Fleet Week held April 15 through 22. The detachment partnered with the Tejanos Veterans Association to determine logistics for three lunches held on different days and ships and provided more than 300 meals for Marines and Sailors attending a main entertainment event that Sunday at a country dance hall.

NOTABLE DISTRICT-SPECIFIC EVENTS AND SUPPORT

District 1: Amillio and Lubbock area

1. **South Plains Detachment #519** partnered with the Texas Running Club, Parade supports, Toys for Tots, and various fundraisers.
2. **Roan Creek Detachment #0992** donated nearly \$7,000 to various nonprofits.

District 2: Dallas Metroplex

1. **Big “D” Detachment #316** partners with the “No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum” and through their funding supports that award numerous scholarships. In all they donated roughly \$32,000 and volunteered 2901 hours for a value of \$9,7412. Additionally, they volunteered nearly 3,0001 hours with Young Marines at \$2,4182.

2. **CWO2 James W Randolph Detachment #1465** partners with Band of Brothers Networking. They also spent 3071 hours volunteering for Toys for Tots events at a value of \$10,3122, and 1131 hours with Young Marines at a value of \$3,7952.

District 3: El Paso

1. **Deane Hawkins Detachment #323** Presents awards to the Ft Bliss SgtMaj Course and sponsors making clothes for orphans in El Paso. They donated \$1,200 to Young Marines and volunteered 2861 hours between drills and adopted a Highway valued at \$9,6062.

District 4: Central Texas between San Antonio I-35 through Waco

1. **Alamo Detachment #315** hosts the annual San Antonio All City Marine Corps Ball and supports the Fiesta Marathon and other events. They provided 86 hours of Funeral Honor Guard support (\$2,3512).

2. **Sgt Byron W Norwood Detachment #1022** donated nearly \$8,500 to various groups and individuals including \$3,160 to JROTC and \$4,000 in Scholarships. They volunteered for over 2801 hours assisting Veterans, JROTC, Scouts, and performing nursing home visits. They also produce a USMC Birthday Ball and dinner plus participate in Patriot Riders Chapters.

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3. Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384 partners with VFW Post 12104 and the Bastrop Area Cruisers for the Veterans Day event in Bastrop. They hosted the 12th Annual Battle Ball Golf Tournaments supporting local Veterans, and support Veterans and families through their “Funding Assistance in Trying Hours”. In total, they donated \$5,240 to various causes and volunteered over 2871 hours (\$9,6402) with Funeral Attendance/Honor Guard, Children, Food Pantry, Nursing Home visits, NJROTC and more.

District 5: Greater Houston Metroplex/Galveston/Beaumont

Dist 5 assists with the Greater Houston wide Marine Corps Balls

1. Galveston County Det #668 partners with a USMC Reserve Unit, supported 4 major theme related seasonal events, provides a Bugler Detail to play Taps each evening in different parts of the City of Galveston, partnered with the Galveston and Houston area Recruiting Stations, and supports the Poolee Events with food and beverages. In total they donated \$29,400 including scholarships, Toys for Tots, and supporting veterans and their families. They also provided funding for the building of a Viet Nam Memorial and a Korean War Memorial in Galveston and volunteered 3871 hours to Toys for Tots (\$12,9992).

2. East Tex Detachment #779 partnered with God’s Garage who recondition vehicles and gives them in top condition to the Spouses of service member who died in combat or noncombat.

3. Brazoria County Detachment #982 sends members to a nursing home in Angleton where they volunteered for 30 hours. They participate in a Brazoria County Jail Mentor Program for Marines and Veterans and spent 9731 hours working on Toys for Tots (\$32,6832).

4. Sgt James R Tijerina Detachment #1295 donated \$500 to Young Marines and spent 561 hours volunteering at Veteran Nonprofits.

5. Brazos Valley #1391 Donated over \$15,000 to various causes including \$4,300 in scholarships, \$3,000 to support veterans and their families. They volunteered for over 5001 hours for children, veteran assistance, nursing home visits, and veteran nonprofits.

District 6: South Gulf Coast, Laredo, and Rio Grande Valley

1. Coastal Bend Detachment #430 is partnered with the Veterans Round Table Committee, and Toys for Tots. They provide 8131 hours of Honor Guard services (\$27,3092).

2. **Laredo Detachment #895** supports the local JROTC units and Toys for Tots. They also volunteered 9811 hours feeding families in Laredo (\$32,9522).

3. **Rio Grande Valley Detachment #1456** has a Color Guard that supported various activities for 1631 hours (\$5,4752) and spent 1441 hours providing Funeral and Honor Guard services (\$4,8402). They provided 2221 hours of veteran/family assistance and 1181 hours at the food pantry. They donated \$5,000 through their Sgt Juan Calderon Jr Memorial Scholarship.

District 7: Waco through I-35 toward Ft Worth

1. Heart of Texas Detachment #975 spent 90 hours at a local Food Bank, and supports the Leatherneck Running event. They also attended various funerals for a total of 2001 hours (\$6,7182).

2. Longhorn Detachment #1069 partnered with Wheelchairs for Kids, Sponsored BSA Troop 554, and sponsored a Golf Tournament to support the local Veterans community.

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3. **Maj John Keith Wells Detachment #1472** donated \$1,000 to scholarships and \$500 to a veteran nonprofit. They dedicated their time to attending funerals and volunteering with children.

District 8: East Texas Region

1. **Pineywoods Detachment #1189** donated \$2,000 to scholarships and spent 621 hours (\$2,4182) supporting Toys for Tots.

2. **Lufkin Detachment #1362** uses Military Vehicles in support of Parades and other events. They spent 5641 hours (\$18,9442) supporting Toys for Tots.

3. **Jacksonville Detachment #1381** partners with the Annual Texas Military Show and distributes toys in special events called “Christmas in the Park” and Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville, Tx.

District 9 Northeast Texas Area

1. **Sgt Jay M Hoskins Detachment #1364** donated \$1,000 in scholarships. They dedicated 891 hours to Toys for Tots as well.

USMC RESERVE CENTER SUPPORT COLLOCATE

1. Det 315: C Co, 4 Recon Bn, San Antonio, Tx
2. Det 1297: HQ Btry, 2 Bn, 14 Mar, Grand Prairie, T
3. Det 323: D Btry, 2 Bn 14 Mar and Ft Bliss Toy Program, El Paso, Tx
4. Det 1480: F Btry, 2 Bn, 14 Mar, Ft Worth, Tx
5. Det 668: C Co, 4th AAV Bn and Littoral Craft C Co, 4th AAV Bn, Galveston, Tx
6. Det 975: CLB 453 Maint Co, Waco, Tx
7. Det 1249: CLB 453 Maint Co, Waco, Tx
8. Det 959: CLB 453 MT, Texarkana, Tx
9. Det 1485: H & S Co, 1st Bn 23 Mar, Houston, Tx
10. Det 430: C Co 1Bn 23 Mar, Corpus Christi, Tx
11. Det 1384: Wpns Co, 1s Bn, 23rd Mar, Austin, Tx
12. Det 992: B Co, Anti-Terrorism BN, Amarillo, Tx