



Upcoming Events

- December Business Meeting * Dec 1 * 7pm * VFW
- Farmville Parade (Toys for Tots collection) * Dec 12 * 10am
- Ron Ayers Event * Dec 12
- Christmas * Dec 25

December 1, 2009

Down East Detachment 1186

DOWNEASTMCL.COM

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Home Away from Home Fund concluded its fiscal year on October 31, 2009 - and what a year! Twenty-five families received support during the year and more than 80 nights of lodging donated.

The Fund received tremendous community support and we would like to thank all those committed to ensure the families of our injured military personnel are supported when they arrive in Eastern North Carolina.

The Home Fund received generous donations from local churches and the Pitt Memorial Foundation. Local businesses and individual were instrumental in this effort to provide immediate

transitional lodging and assistance.

Fiscal Year 2010 will most likely be another busy year for the fund. In fact, we have already provided lodging for the mother of an ill Camp Lejeune Marine.

About the Fund

The Home Away from Home Fund was officially launched in November 2009. Detachment Marines have provided support to family members of injured or ill active duty personnel admitted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for care. Beginning July 2009, the Home Fund began providing support to active duty families with a child admitted to Pitt County Me-

morial Hospital when lodging is not available at the Ronald McDonald House. In most cases, families have a newborn admitted to the neo-natal intensive care unit.

The Home Fund relies on support from the local community and grants. None of the donations received are allotted for administrative costs. We have no paid staff.

Please consider a donation to the Home Fund for the new fiscal year!

downeastmcl.com/donate



Detachment 1186 is responsible for collecting new unwrapped toys for thousands of children in Pitt and Martin Counties.

Please visit the Detachment website to learn more about the Toys for Tots effort and how you can help!

The website contains infor-

mation on where you can drop off toys and information about upcoming events.

We need your support!



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3/4 Marines patrol Farah village, build trust - Marines.mil

11/16/2009 By Cpl. Zachary J. Nola, Regimental Combat Team 7

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines and sailors from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, made its way into the village of Kace Satar, Afghanistan, Nov. 11, with a mission: protect the locals, and gain their trust.

The Marine's of 3/4 believe that providing security and building relationships in these small villages will help disrupt enemy activity in their area of operations.

"The little towns are where most of the Taliban forces come and terrorize the people," said Cpl. Bradley Penn, a section leader with 3/4. "They then have the opportunity to store things [in the towns]. So if we don't go to the little towns, then we won't have the opportunity to find those caches of ordinance they use in [improvised explosive devices] or any weapons systems they may have."

The first of the four patrols headed into the town to visit with the local Afghans after setting up security and performing gear checks.



The Marines took necessary precautions with their route and made sure not to disturb the local farm fields as they carefully navigated their way through the outskirts of the town.

The first patrol, led by Penn, was met by local elders and other villagers upon entering the town.

Following an exchanging of pleasantries, the elders guided the patrol down the village's many dusty pathways, while talking with the Marines about

their key concerns which include the village's water shortage.

The second patrol into the city proved a test of the Marine's training.

The Marines had spotted a possible enemy observer on a ridge overlooking the town. Once the patrol's security element confirmed their belief of possible enemy observation, the Marines switched into high gear and surrounded the possible threat.

"I thought worst-case scenario, it could be someone with [binoculars] looking at our patrol, and that he could be a forward observer and maybe [the Taliban] were going to try to [indirect fire] on us," said Cpl. Nic Rodriguez, 22, a vehicle commander with India Co.

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Visit the
Detachment website
to read our blog and
obtain information
about membership.

Detachment Website

Visit the Detachment website to learn more about our programs to include Toys for Tots and the Home Away from Home Program.

You can learn more about the Detachment, how to join our effort, read past news articles and newsletters and you can obtain useful links on information

related to veterans and military retiree benefits.

Links are also available for the National Marine Corps League website and Department website.

Please visit downeastmcl.com frequently.

Semper Fi!





Drop Off Locations

Office of Congressman Jones
1105-C Corporate Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

May Museum Farmville
3802 South Main St
Farmville, NC 27828-8548
(252) 753-6725

*limited hours

Toys for Tots Warehouse
2810 E. Tenth Street SUITE C,
Greenville, NC 27858

*limited hours

**Other locations listed on web-
site downeastmcl.com**

**Thousands of Toys
will be distributed
to needy children
this year**

**Thank you for your
support!**

Marine Corps Ball - Greenville Hilton



Continued from previous page...

“The only thing that was going through my head was that I wanted to get my guys up there as soon as possible to see what it was and assess the threat at the time.”

The patrol identified the individuals as an Afghan man and some children who were playing in holes they claimed were created by mortars during the Afghan-Soviet War in the 1980s, the platoon’s interpreter explained.

The incident allowed the vehicle commander to observe his Marines in a real-life situation in a combat environment.

“There were some good points. The intensity [the Marines] had was amazing, even if it was just

someone we thought had [binoculars]. They treated it very professionally,” said Rodriguez. “I liked the way I saw the Marines take it seriously.”

The Marines and sailors of 1st platoon were ready to return to their forward operating base after the third patrol had concluded, but not before addressing the town’s water shortage and determining a possible course of action.

“At that time I began to talk to the village elder, who seemed very happy we were there to help out,” said Rodriguez.

The fourth patrol was able to help the village by passing out additional food and water to local children. Once the patrol reached the village center, the Marines distributed all remaining food and water to the local Afghans in need.

“The food and water was a gesture of ‘Hey, we’re here to help,’” said Penn, from San Antonio.



Mission

The Marine Corps League was founded by Major General Commandant, John A. Lejeune, in 1923 and chartered by an Act of Congress on August 4, 1937. Its membership of nearly 56,000 is comprised of honorably discharged, active duty and Reserve Marines with 90 days of service or more, and retired Marines. It includes officer, enlisted, male and female members.



The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant, with 14 elected national staff officers who serve as trustees. Day to day operations are under the control of an executive director who supervises the day-to-day performance of the national headquarters staff, located at 8626 Lee Highway in Fairfax, Virginia.

The prime authority of the League is derived from its charter and from its annual national convention held in August in different major U. S. cities throughout the nation. The National Commandant has operational control over the National Headquarters staff and the National Board of Trustees, who in turn coordinate the efforts of 47 department, or State entities, and the activities of over 812 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas.

The League is classified as a veterans / military service organization and was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U. S. Marine Corps; to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines, as well as to their widows and orphans; and to preserve the traditions of the U. S. Marine Corps. It is a not for profit organization within the provisions of Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

Meeting Location:

VFW Post 7032
1108 Mumford Rd.
Greenville, NC 27834

Meeting Time:

1st Tuesday of each month 7pm/1900

Home Fund Sponsor



Support the Home Away from Home Fund!

downeastmcl.com/donate