



# THE MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS

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The Official Newsletter of the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan

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## Michigan is hosting the 2024 Central Division Conference in Kalamazoo, April 4 -7.



### **Department Commandant Ray Rayl**

(517) 262-4091 —  
jarhead1946@gmail.com

Marines, welcome to 2024, and thank you for attending the Mid-Winter Rally at the Dearborn Dou-

ble Tree Hotel. Attendance was low, but everyone had a great time. Many thanks to the Montford Point and Downriver Detachments for their inaugural attempt at hosting a Mid-Winter Rally. I shared their anxiety. It was their first and also my first major event as the Department Commandant.

Write in April 4 – 6 on your calendars. This is the date of the Central Division Conference to be held at the Delta Hotels and Conference Center by Marriot in Kalamazoo, MI. This is hosted by the Department of Michigan MCL, Department Auxiliary MCLA, and the Kalamazoo Detachment # 879. This event will see detachments from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan. So please put these three days on your calendar.

At the Mid-Winter Rally, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the location for the 2024 Department of Michigan Summer Convention. It will be at the Delta Hotels and Conference Center by Marriot in Kalamazoo. Sound familiar? This is the same location as the

The Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan is the host of the 2024 Central Division Conference. The event will be held from April 4 to April 7 at the Delta Hotels by Marriot Kalamazoo Conference Center, 2747 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ad space is still available for the program. Ads are due by March 15. For information about attending and to purchase an ad visit [michiganmarines.org](http://michiganmarines.org) for the conference packet.

The conference is open to all Marine Corps League Members. Guests will include the National Commandant and National Auxiliary President. To sign up for the hospitality and banquet the deadline is March 15.

Let's show the Central Division how great Michigan is to visit.

Central Division Conference. The date is June 7 – 9, 2024. More information is coming.

The Department is looking for a replacement for Steven Kelley, VAVS Director. Steve will be stepping down for personal reasons. If you would like to fill this position or if you know of anyone who would, please give me a call at (517)262-4091. Also, the Department is searching for a detachment(s) to host the 2025 Mid-Winter Rally.



## **Department Sr. Vice Commandant**

**Phil Smith**

(313) 720-2712 —  
marret94@aol.com

## **What Is The Responsibilities Of The Sr. Vice Commandant Of The Department Of Michigan**

My first thought, or somehow, is, does anyone read the By-laws and Administrative Procedures? In my opinion and others, the question is sometimes, does anyone ever do that, either at the Detachment, Department, Central, or National level?

Fortunately, not enough people or members do, and that saying that, we need to sometimes peruse through them to know what our responsibilities are and, of course, if by some chance, the Rules and Obligations of the Marine Corps League.

Not long ago, I decided, since I am the Sr. Vice Commandant of the Department of Michigan's Marine Corps League, that I better learn my job, especially after being asked and placed on assignment and appointed to be on an investigation of sorts. I am not a lawyer, but needless to say, I know enough about the law and military after serving 27 years in the Corps and conducting a few investigations, especially motor vehicle investigations and other ones, that I can do an investigation and think it through, and what the do's, don'ts and what can or cannot be conducted or done.

Being the Sr. Vice is a little different than being a Jr. Vice or the Commandant or moving up the chain if that's the direction you want to go.

And then you say, why would anyone want to do that job or be in that position?

So, here we go: what is the position of the Sr. Vice Commandant?

According to the bylaws, you can check them out for yourself.

"Shall Aide the Commandant and preside over the Department Convention during the absence of the Commandant and shall serve as a Liaison between the League



## **Department Adjutant Report**

**Tracey Ann Tippet**  
Adjutant Department of Michigan

I am honored to be your Department Adjutant and assist our new Department Commandant, Ray Rayl.

With just a few reminders going forward, please ensure you send your correspondence/reports to the correct individuals. I need your Officer Installation Reports and Bank/Charter Forms within ten days of your Officer Installations. Many Detachments have not completed your Installation Reports or submitted Bank/Charter Forms....these need to be done yearly. Also, I need to know who your Contact is for your Detachment (this will help your Zone Vice Commandants and everyone else to contact in need of information).

If you need any assistance, please let me know. I can be reached at 9687 US Highway 41  
Champion, MI 49814  
906-250-3189  
Email-tracerduck@aol.com

*By Direction of the Department Commandant Art Menard*

and Auxiliary.

"The Sr. Vice Commandant shall be the principal officer of fundraising to carry out (a) Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, (b) Be the Principal Liaison between the Board of Trustees and any Professional Fundraisers applying by the Department, (c) Be responsible for presenting to the Budget and Financing Committee and the Board of Trustees the recommendations of the Fundraising Committee, as required by the Bylaws or the Administrative Procedures. And the Sr. Vice shall perform other duties as required and may be assigned from time to time by the Commandant."

It's a lot of work, but if you want the position and have been sitting back and just directing others from time to time, why not jump in there and move up the lad-

***Continue on page 3***

## Department Sr. Vice Commandant Report—cont.

der? Now, my opinion first off is that it is a lot of work. And sometimes, even though we read the Ritual and have been in positions, we seem to forget what we are supposed to do or have that brain f\_\_t and forget things.

I have around the Marine Corps League; I might say, since I was asked from time to time, I joined right after coming back from Vietnam, fresh out of not having a Marine Hair-cut, to getting back into the Corps' atmosphere, and was asked by this old crusty Master Sergeant, do you belong to the Marine Corps League my response "what the hell is that." After making a pot of coffee, I found out that I had never done it before. It was a little strong, but he drank it. I joined while the Headquarters was on Arlington Rd, in Arlington, VA. The cost was \$10.00 per annual year. Break in time, and rejoined some years after running around the Corps. I rejoined while on Recruiting Duty, and the Recruiter was Rotten Ray Kania, PDC, Detroit Police Officer; we met when his holster wasn't tight, and his gun was down to his knee. I jumped all over him about it. Of course, he jumped back. I have been around the League for some time. Anyway, back to the responsibilities.

The Sr. Vice, like others, is on the call of the Commandant; you have responsibilities as outlined by what is written; sometimes, we forget and have to be reminded, or you have to remind yourself. When the Commandant is not available, whether on vacation or indisposed, then the Sr. steps in as Acting, but keeps the Commandant abreast of what goes on, or in case you have a call and need attention that the Commandant may not be aware of. You contact the person in position and advise them on what is going on, as well as your opinion. Let's all have fun, be on alert, be safe, keep in contact, ask questions, and, most of all, be well.

Usually, officers move up in position when they run, say from the floor or up the chain from being a Zone Commandant or other officer position.

On another note, if you're married, you should always sit down and talk to your spouse before you run or think about running. They are part of the process as well, and they need to know, as they will more than likely travel with you. This keeps a good relationship going. Respect, let's have a good year and get the tickets sold for the raffle.



## Past Commandant Report

**Art Menard**

Jr. Past Department Commandant  
menardart@gmail.com  
(906) 280-7463

We must thank the Downriver Detachment 153 and Montford Point Detachment 158 for hosting the 2024 Department of Michigan Midwinter Conference.

As the Department's junior past Commandant, my primary role is to advise Department Commandant Rayl. We communicate frequently about Department business and work together to ensure everything is getting done and nothing is missed.

Due to the six-state rotation, Michigan is next up and will be hosting the Central Division Conference in 2024. Department Commandant Rayl and I are co-chairs of the 2024 Central Division Conference Committee. The Conference will be held April 04-07, 2024, at the Delta Hotel by Marriot & Conference Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan. This Conference is being Co-Hosted by the Department of Michigan, the Department of Michigan Auxiliary & members of Kalamazoo Detachment 879. For this event, we have our Conference Committee meetings via Zoom. We have a great team in place to put on what should be a fun, event-filled learning opportunity for all Marine Corps League Division-level attendees. **Central Division Conference Packets are on the department website:** michiganmarines.org. The National Commandant, National Auxiliary President, and the Chief Operating Officer are all coming for this Conference. Please consider attending and see our Marine Corps League close to home on a bigger stage. The next National Convention is in Southern California.

Also very important, Time & Place never received a bid to host our 2024 Department Convention. It was PDC Warren Tracy's idea that if we can put on a good event for the Central Division, why not keep the same team in place to host the 2024 Department Summer Convention some 60 days later at the same place? We recently entered into a contract with the hotel, and the Summer Convention Packet will be finalized soon. Then, we will add it

## Past Commandant Report —cont.

to the department website.

For both events to be successful, we need our detachments, pounds, auxiliary units, departments, and detachment officers to buy ads. Consider purchasing two ads and including them in your group's meeting agenda.

To All, thank you for all that you do!



### Department Judge Advocate Report

**Scott Hellman**

Dept. Judge Advocate

Semper Fidelis Marines,

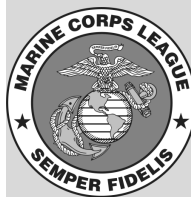
I have been busy with my position as Judge Advocate for the Department. So far, the National JA has had his first quarterly Zoom meeting with all the Dept. JAs from all states. He wanted to cover some issues that other JAs have had so we could hear some solutions and prevention measures. One that was covered but hasn't come to my attention yet is wearing the MCL cover during meetings and conventions. It IS required to be worn during all mid-winter and summer conventions; the exception is during the banquets. He would ask that the detachments also wear the cover during their meetings, but he wants to avoid setting some policies for the detachments.

He did ask that ALL detachments look over their by-laws. Most detachments haven't looked at their by-laws since their charter was signed. Every couple of years, they should be reread to verify that they don't conflict with any new changes at the National or Department level. If you do make changes or add new by-laws, they need to be sent to me for review. Make sure they can be updated for our records and verify there are no conflicts. I will not tell you how or what

to say in your by-laws, but I will explain if they conflict where they do. It will be up to your detachment JA or by-law committee to word them, not the department, to dictate how your by-laws should read. I am here to help you through the process, not stand in your way.

A huge area that must be discussed is the 990 and the LARA. Either one of these two documents can get a detachment's or even a department's charter suspended or revoked if the unit is non-compliant. That is how important they are. Please don't forget to have the paymaster report to the unit that they have been filed so they will be documented in the minutes. They need to be filed no less than every two years, but it is best to do it yearly. They only take minutes literally to file them. It is very expensive to get back in good standing with the state and federal authorities. If you have any questions about getting them completed, the PDC Jon Van Tol is our compliance officer and will have the guidance you need to stay or get compliant.

Thank you for all the assistance and information you provided to help the Department in its role as YOUR Judge Advocate.



### Vehicle Raffle Report

**Scott Hellman**

Raffle Chairman

Marines,

I'm happy to hear that the MMN is starting back up. As the chair of the vehicle raffle, I was asked to give an update on what has been happening in the raffle since it started. At the Summer Convention of 2023, we passed out over 6,300 tickets to 31 individuals. The idea was to get tickets out to detachments and those willing to sell a few tickets or buy a few themselves. The initial acceptance was very well received, or so I thought. Four months later, at the Fall Staff meeting, I reported only 815 tickets sold out of the 3500 minimum needed to give away a vehicle. I got some more people to take some more tickets that either missed the summer convention or wanted to share with others that wanted some to sell. Ticket sales continued, but nowhere close to what is needed to be able to give away a vehicle.

Now, three more months have passed, and the Mid-Winter has happened. The report for that was im-



## Vehicle Raffle Report –cont.

proved but still extremely lacking in sales. After tickets from the convention were recorded, we are just a few shy of 1600 tickets sold. Now, seven months have passed, and we are not halfway to our minimum goal. Honestly, I am saddened by the complete failure of the raffle at this point. It could be a huge money maker for the Department. We may, with future sales, make maybe \$10,000. This is a far cry from the \$100,000 plus profit which could be used to support the programs that need our contributions. VAVS, the homes Christmas parties, Veterans hospitals, the scholarship program, and the general operating costs. Since I can't start a new raffle for next year until this one is complete, I don't know if there will be a raffle for next year.

We can really use a hand selling some tickets or even buy a few. If you want to get some tickets, please get ahold of your Zone Commandants or someone that may have them in your unit. You can also text or email me personally if you want a hundred or so to sell for your area. I will need all tickets returned to me no later than the end of April. It will take some days to receive and record all the information. The drawing will be recorded as documented proof of it being on the up and up. I obviously have friends and family that bought tickets, whoever wins a prize, it will be above reproach.

My contact information is,  
[Scott.hellman@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:Scott.hellman@muskegoncc.edu) phone: 231-670-7902



## History: Department of Michigan

**Dale K. Erion**  
 Department Historian

The Department of Michigan Marine Corps League was chartered on 15 December 1940. Capt. Edward C Fuller Detachment was chartered in January 1925 and was the first detachment in Michigan. This detachment was named after Capt. Fuller, who was KIA on 6 June 1918 at Belleau Wood, France.

The second detachment formed in Michigan was Belcher/Lane, organized in October 1932. This detachment was



## Department VAVS Representative

**Steven D. Kelley**  
**HELP WANTED!!**

Marine and Associates:

Although I have been sick lately, I am still trying to raise funds for the VA hospitals and veterans' homes through the Department VAVS programs.

Please let me know if you have any old motors, wiring, or other scrap metal you wish to donate to this project. It would be appreciated if you could get together with other members and gather all of the material in one place for easier pickup. I can be contacted at the following:

e-mail [usmc7036@aol.com](mailto:usmc7036@aol.com)  
 text 989-245-6578  
 Home phone 989-40107410

Again, 100% of any money raised goes to this project.

Thank you in advance for any donations.

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organized, not chartered. Belcher/Lane detachment was named after two Marines from the Port Huron area who lost their lives in France during World War I. The next four detachments in Michigan organized were the Dearborn detachment in November 1937, the Flint detachment in 1939, Detroit #1 in early 1939, and the Southwest detachment in Kalamazoo in 1940.

These six detachments formed the nucleus of the Dept of MI MCL. Records indicate Detroit #1 was chartered in November 1939 with Orville L Hubbard as detachment Commandant. On 1 October 1940, the Flint and Grand Rapids Fred Cochran detachment received their charters. On 1 November 1940, the Dearborn detachment was chartered with Orville L Hubbard as detachment Commandant. On 20 November 1940, Belcher/Lane, out of Port Huron, came on board with their charter. This gave Michigan the

## History: Department of Michigan—cont.

required number of detachments to be chartered. The Department of Michigan Marine Corps League was chartered on 15 December 1940, with Orville L Hubbard being elected as the first Department Commandant. The election took place in Detroit in 1941.

Two years later, in June 1943, the Marine Corps League Ladies Auxiliary came on board with their charter. This unit was the fifth MCL Dept Aux to be chartered by the National Aux. The Devil Dogs also came on board around this time, but we have not been able to locate the date.

After Orville L. Hubbard left office, he ran for National Commandant. Hubbard came close but was not elected. The first National Commandant from Michigan was John G. Hosko, who went up the chairs fast. He was Department Commandant 1953-55, Central Division Vice Commandant 1955-56, and National Commandant 1957-58. Hosko then returned as Department Commandant 1962-63, becoming the only three-term Commandant in Department history.

For the first twenty years of the Department of MI MCL, 54 detachments were chartered. Detachments were at Monroe and Wolverine along the southern border with Indiana and Ohio, and there was an Iron Mountain detachment in the western Upper Peninsula.

The first attempt at Zones in the early forties divided Michigan into two zones. One was from the southern border of Michigan up to Highway US 10. The second Zone was from US 10 north and included the entire Upper Peninsula. This meant a lot of travel for the two Zone Commandants.

On 9 June 1956, the Montford Point detachment was chartered in Detroit. The nucleus of this detachment was made up of original Montford Point Marines. The next National Commandant was Burton P Daugherty Jr., 1964-66. PNC Daugherty and C/D Vice Commandant Howard C Berns were instrumental in creating the Department Marine of the Year trophy, which has been passed on since the mid-sixties.

Over the next 50 years, many Department of MI MCL members went on to be elected or appointed National officers or committee members. One example is Gaylord Addison. He was Central Division Vice Commandant 1976-90. Our next National Commandants were John P Tuohy

2001-03 and his younger brother James Tuohy 2012-14. These two are the only brothers to be National Commandants.

Since 1940, the Department of MI MCL has advocated for veterans' rights at the national, state, and local levels. It has also helped numerous veterans' claims be processed and accepted through the Veterans Administration.

The Department of MI MCL and its sub-organizations have sent many National officers. These include four National Commandants, 11 National Auxiliary Presidents, three National Directors of Young Marines, five Chief Devil Dogs, and eight National Big Fleas. Over the first 83 years, the Department of MI MCL was and still is very active on the National and state levels in the Marine Corps League.

### **SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN MARINE OF THE YEAR AND DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Fellow Marines:

Every year at the Department Convention in June, one League member is honored as the Department Marine of the Year. The Department can also recognize an Associate member



as a Department Associate of the Year. Please consider nominating a fellow Marine or Associate member for this high honor. The recipient receives a Department of Michigan Marine of the Year Medallion and a beautiful wall plaque, and their name will be added to the large and impressive traveling trophy shown. (It's over three feet tall.) It's our version of the Stanley Cup, and the recipient gets to keep it for one

year. The recipient also becomes a member of the Department of Michigan Marine of the Year Society with the right to participate in choosing the Marine of



the Year every year after that. The Associate of the Year will receive a Department Associate of the Year Medalion and wall Plaque.

Any member of the League or a Detachment can submit a nomination. We are looking for qualities and performance that exemplify the best ideals of the League. Participation in the MCL at the Department level is the most heavily weighted criteria. They should have performed outstanding service to the Department and the League (at any other level.) We also consider service to their community and the veterans' community. Examples include being a Department and/or Detachment Officer or committee member; working on Department and Detachment projects; volunteering at a V.A. Medical Center or other V.A. or non-V.A. medical facilities; participating in Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other patriotic events; organizing and/or participating in charitable activities, especially those that aid veterans or our Marines and other forces on active or reserve duty; participation in civic activities, both state and local, and in other service organizations; advocating for veteran's rights and programs. These are examples only. You may know of additional reasons to nominate someone.

To make a nomination, we need a written description of the nominee's activities and why they are worthy of recognition. Think of it as writing a resume. It is not limited to this year; the description should cover as many years as possible. You can include newspaper clippings, copies of awards, online links showing the nominee, etc. A brief description of the nominee's USMC service is also welcome but not a consideration unless it involves the league.

You can submit it by email (this is the preferred method) and through U.S. mail. The addresses are:

Email [msgttroystewart@yahoo.com](mailto:msgttroystewart@yahoo.com) and put Dept of MI MOY in the subject line.

OR

U.S. mail:  
Troy Stewart  
216 Nebobish Ave  
Essexville, MI 48732

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS  
MAY 1, 2024

THE NOMINATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN MY  
HAND BY THAT DATE AT MIDNIGHT

The award is presented at the Department Convention, and ***the recipient is not notified in advance.*** It is hoped and expected (but not mandatory) that they will be present and surprised. If your nominee wins, you

will be contacted in secrecy and encouraged to try to have the winner attend the Department Convention. ***Be sure to put your name, address, phone number(s), and email address in the nomination.***

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MAY 1, 2024

THE NOMINATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN MY HAND BY THAT DATE AT MIDNIGHT

## Around the Department.....



Thanksgiving greetings to you and yours, especially Marines. Hal is holding a picture he had just signed - a gift to Jim Brandstatter. \*

Hal just got out of the hospital and has us all worried. He is the last member of the "Frozen Chosen" that we know of in SE Michigan.

He vividly recalls that Thanksgiving 1950 when, as a Corporal with 3-5, he took a frozen turkey leg up the hill with him and was carried down a day later with a severe leg wound.

He was "in and out" but swears that a Corpsman nicknamed "Red" saved him and seven other wounded Marines, fighting through Chicom roadblocks to get them

## Around the Department.....

onto one of the last flights out of Hagaru-ri on 5 December 1950.

When he arrived in Kobe, Osaka, hospitals were full, and he recalls waking up on a gymnasium floor, wrapped only in a blanket.

The nurse who awakened him looked at his dog tags and asked if he knew what day it was. He said, "No." She told him it was 5 December. He exclaimed, "It's my birthday!"

His 21st birthday.

He recalls the nurse hugging him and "maybe some of the other nurses, too."

Hal received a battlefield commission in Vietnam.

He will be 94 on 5 December. \*\*

Semper Fidelis!

Chuck

\* Athlete and Radio-TV personality. Big supporter of Vet-

## In the News.....

### Bill Allowing Disabled Veterans to Collect Full Benefits Gets New Push from Supporters on Capitol Hill

Military.com | By Rebecca Kheel

Published March 06, 2024 at 12:20pm ET

Leading lawmakers and veterans groups are renewing their push for a bill that would dramatically expand benefits for veterans injured in combat.

The Major Richard Star Act, as the bill is called, would ensure all service members who medically retire have full access to both military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits. The bill had some momentum last year but has since stalled.

But veterans service organizations on Capitol Hill this week and lawmakers from both parties who are sponsoring the bill are now vowing to keep fighting until the bill crosses the finish line.

"We're not going to stop until we fix this injustice for our veterans and their loved ones," Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon alongside a

throng of veterans.

"I know that the VSOs and the veteran community can come together, and they can help us get this done," Tester added. "We saw it with the PACT Act. We saw veterans step up and make a big difference and actually, the truth is, got the bill passed in the United States Senate. We're going to have to do it again with the Major Richard Star Act."

Right now, veterans with fewer than 20 years of service and a disability rating of less than 50% have their retirement pay reduced by a dollar for every dollar of disability pay they get.

Those rules mean an estimated 50,000 retirees are ineligible for concurrent benefits. The average offset was about \$1,900 per month in 2022, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The Major Richard Star Act would remove those restrictions so that all retirees with combat-related disabilities can collect their full retirement and disability benefits.

The bill's namesake was an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who was forced to retire before 20 years of service after he was diagnosed with lung cancer he developed following burn pit exposure. Star died from cancer in 2021.

"By far, Richard's greatest goal was to pass this," his widow, Tonya Star, said at Tuesday's news conference. "These men and women earned their retirements the hard way, and Richard made myself, along with many of you, promise that we would not stop until we got this done. It hasn't been an easy road to travel. I know many of you, like myself, were in offices today advocating for this bill. I cannot thank you enough for all of your support. We are closer than we have ever been. We're going to get it done this year."

The news conference was held ahead of Wednesday's start of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees' annual veterans service organizations hearings, where the groups were expected to advocate for the bill. Veterans groups also held private meetings with several congressional offices Tuesday to lobby for



## In the News.....

the bill.

The bill, which falls under the jurisdiction of both the Veterans Affairs and Armed Services committees, was advanced out of the House Armed Services Committee last year. It has also garnered more than 320 co-sponsors in the House and more than 70 in the Senate.

Despite the broad bipartisan support, there has been no movement on the bill since the House committee vote amid questions about how it would be paid for. The Congressional Budget Office has projected the legislation could cost an estimated \$9.75 billion in what's known as mandatory spending over the next decade.

But supporters of the bill argue the country owes the benefits to its veterans, regardless of cost. Supporters said they are hoping to get the legislation attached to the annual defense policy bill that will move through Congress later this year and, if that doesn't work, look for any other legislative vehicle they can find.

"We're not going to rest until we pass the Richard Star Act," Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., the lead House sponsor, said at the news conference. "This is a righteous cause."

Read the text of the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/s344/BILLS-118s344is.pdf>

### US Marines rush to field two air defense systems amid global threats

By [Megan Eckstein](#) ; Military Times

Read the story here: [https://www.defensenews.com/land/2024/01/17/us-marines-rush-to-field-two-air-defense-systems-amid-global-threats/?utm\\_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sailthru&SToverl ay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d](https://www.defensenews.com/land/2024/01/17/us-marines-rush-to-field-two-air-defense-systems-amid-global-threats/?utm_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sailthru&SToverl ay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d)

### Do Veterans Benefits Expire?

Military.com | By Jim Absher

Published November 28, 2022

Did you know that many of your VA benefits have an expiration date?

If not, you are not alone.

Most veterans aren't aware of their benefits, let alone that many of them can expire.

Read the full story and list of expirations here: [https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=marine\\_240102.nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=marine&utm\\_campaign=20240102](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=marine_240102.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=marine&utm_campaign=20240102)

## What the Hell!!

By Mark Sutton, Editor

*The following opinion is of the editor and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Marine Corps League or the MCL Department of Michigan.*

On February 7, 2024, Headquarters Marine Corps ordered E-7s and above to conduct environmental, health, and safety inspections of all service barracks.

News outlets began running stories before this announcement about substandard conditions at Marine Corps barracks. On February 5, military.com ran a story about a cockroach infestation at Camp Lejeune, NC. Other stories reported mold and other safety concerns being reported.

### What has happened to the beloved Corps?

Why are E-7s and above being ordered to do inspections now? Have they not been conducting their inspections on Friday mornings? Where have they been? Dare I say it, when I was in the Corps, barracks were cleaned top to bottom every Thursday night, with a full inspection on Friday morning by the squadron Sgt Maj.

Have the standards fallen so far that we no longer expect Marines to clean their living spaces every week? Have we decided not to use the threat of a pulled weekend pass if it fails inspection?

The Navy can have its hands in its pockets, and the Air Force can continue to pay cleaning people to clean its barracks, but we are Marines. Our standards are higher than those of the other branches for a reason. After the E-7s complete their inspection, their Commanding Officers should reem them a new asshole for failing to do their job.