



The SITREP

September 2022
Issue

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Semper Fidelis!



Sue and I are moving to Marion, Iowa. The good news is that we have found our perfect home. The bad news is that our move will be happening in October and November.

**SO THIS IS THE LAST
NEWSLETTER I WILL BE
DOING.**

Inside this Edition

Commandant	2
Scholarship Winner Status	3
Dates to Remember	3
Chaplains Corner	4
News for Veterans	4
2022 PACT ACT	5
Library Services for Veterans	6-7
September Birthdays	8
Quartermaster Report	8
Membership Statistics	8
247 th Marine Birthday Ball	9
June Meeting Minutes	10-13
WTMD1246 BYLAW CHANGE	13
Marine corps History	14-22
Monkey Pox Information	23-25
Businesses Supporting Us	26

White Tank Mountain 1246 Officers for 2022 – 2023



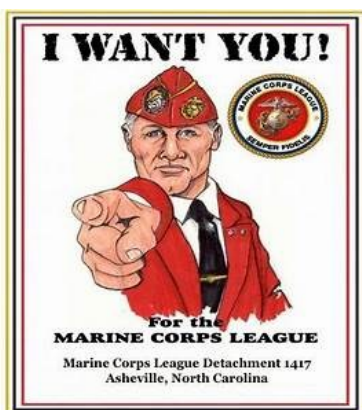
Commandant Jerry Bakke

Phone: 714-315-1194

Email: jerry.bakke.jb@gmail.com

Detachment Staff

Senior Vice-Commandant	<i>James Schickel</i>
Junior Vice-Commandant	<i>Sal Politi</i>
Judge Advocate	<i>Jeffrey Hodder</i>
Junior Past-Commandant	<i>Steven Peterson</i>
Adjutant	<i>Bernie Bakke</i>
Paymaster	<i>Vacant</i>
Chaplain	<i>Doc Robert Spencer</i>
Sergeant-at-Arms	<i>Melvin Meter</i>
Quartermaster	<i>Bernie Bakke</i>
Fundraiser Chair	<i>Sal Politi</i>
Marines Assisting Marines	<i>Vacant</i>
Toys For Tots	<i>Ramon Suarez</i>
Scholarship Chair	<i>Sal Politi</i>
Youth Programs Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Marine corps Ball Chair	<i>Michael Kudla</i>
Hospitality Chair	<i>Cindy Hutto</i>
2023 Dept Convention	<i>Vacant</i>
Newsletter	<i>Vacant</i>
Webmaster	<i>Vacant</i>



WTMD1246 COMMANDANT **JERRY BAKKE**

Welcome back to all our brothers and sisters of the White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246.

I guess we can say summer vacation has come and gone for all of us. I hope your plans for the summer went as you planned.

Now, we need to plan for the next year what our committees are doing. The following is a list of the Committee Chairs:

Scholarship:	Sal Politi
Honor Color Guard:	Mike Mitchell
Fundraising:	Sal Politi
Newsletter:	Pete Pervi
Quartermaster:	Bernie Bakke
Toys-For-Tots:	Ramon Suarez
Hospitality:	Cindy Hutto and Sal Politi
(WTMD)	
Hospitality:	Mike Kudla
(W. Phoenix Valley)	
Homeless Veterans:	Cindy Hutto
Birthday Ball:	Michael Kudla
Christmas Party:	Larry Brown
Nominations:	Mel Meter
Webmaster:	Pete Pervi
State Conv 2023:	Open
(50 th Anniversary)	

These Committees will be Standing Committees. Any other committees are known as Ad Hoc Committees on a one-time basis, when needed throughout the year. Remember committees make a detachment, we NEED volunteers. Please step up to the plate and help fill the positions.

All committees and projects serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, better known as Board of Directors. The last WTMD Bylaws are dated January 19, 2017. We will be updating the WTMD Bylaws at our next Board of Trustees meeting on August 17, 2022.

We will see everyone at our General Meeting on September 8, 2022.



2022 WTMD 1246 Scholarship Winners

Valeria Gonzalez Campos – She has started her freshman year at Arizona State University and has received her scholarship.

Adam J. Kerkemeyer – He has started his freshman year at Case Western Reserve University and has received his scholarship.



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8 - WTMD1246 General Business Meeting at 1730 Surprise Toyota, 13543 N Autoshow Ave.



REMEMBER

Membership Renewal
Annual Notice
Expires 31 August



Renew today with your
local Detachment Paymaster

PURCHASE YOUR BALL TICKETS!





"Doc" Bob Spencer WTMD 1246 Chaplain

Marine David Hastings has reported to the Supreme Commandant on August 6th.

He is survived by his wife, Jan.



Picture taken in Chu Lai 57 years ago.

I've enjoyed doing the detachment newsletter, but all things come to an end.

Our reason for moving is to be closer to family in the Chicago area. So, we selected Marion, Iowa, which is only about 3 hours from family.

This move was supposed to happen in March, but when you find the perfect home, you adjust. October and November will be our move period.

I will see you all at the Sept. 8th meeting. Unfortunately, that means I may or may-not make one more meeting after that and we will miss the Birthday Ball.

I want to thank all of you for your friendship and sharing some very memorable times together.

One last request – would someone please step up and take on the newsletter editor's position.

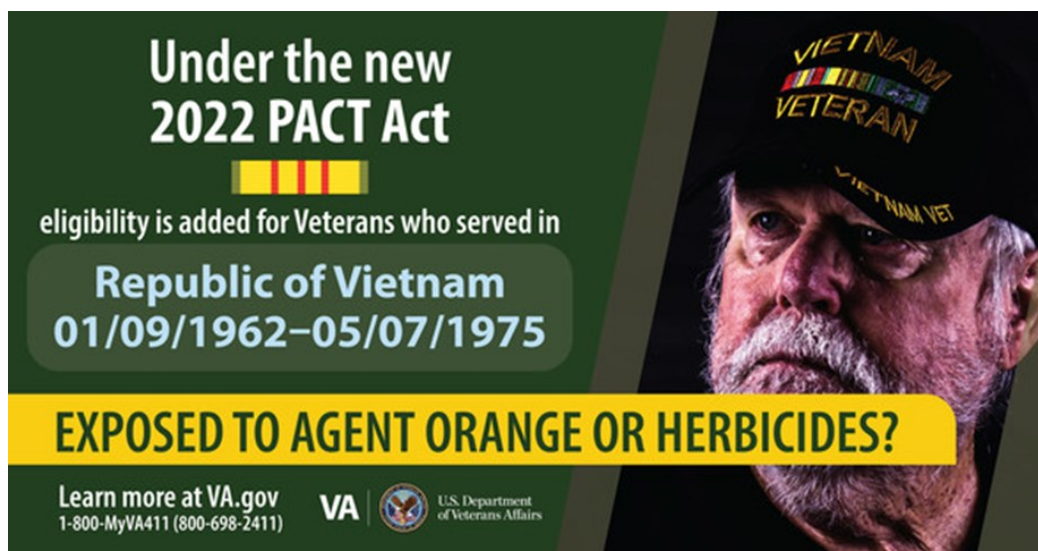
NEWS FOR VETERANS

Senior Housing with Veterans Preference

Construction will begin soon on 99 units of Senior Housing with Veterans preference here in Surprise. The city would like your input on what to name it! If you have an idea for a name that is a patriotic or military themed, please send them to me at danielle.osborne@surpriseaz.gov.

About the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)

The [Veterans Legacy Memorial \(VLM\)](#) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of the nearly 4.5 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries. In 2022, we have made VLM more friendly for mobile devices. Those who view the site on a mobile device will find better use of horizontal space that requires less scrolling to contribute content. Launched in 2019, individual Veteran profile pages are populated with military service and cemetery information. Publicly available information gathered from VA records includes service branch with logo, dates of birth and death, rank, war period, decorations, emblem of belief, and cemetery information. Interactive features allow family, friends, and others to [preserve their Veteran's legacy](#) by posting tributes (comments), upload images, share their Veteran's military service timeline and achievements, biographical information, historical documents and more.



The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans — and their [survivors](#) — with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or "presume") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions."

We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Library Services for veterans



Brainfuse VetNow

- Live online veteran navigator
- Live resume & interview coaching
- Asynchronous veteran questions
- Resume, e-Portfolio, & Website builder
- Job Skills & Training



Brainfuse VetNow Job Tools

eParachute

- Determine marketable skills
- Explore hundreds of career paths
- Get personalized career recommendations

SkillSurfer

- A learning library full of lessons, certifications, and test prep
- From college and grad school to technical certifications like C++

Optimal Resume

- Create resumes, cover letters, and e-Portfolios based on career-specific templates
- Turn them into a professional skills website







Maricopa County
Library District

Library Services

for veterans



Peterson's Test & Career Prep

 Improve Your Score There's a reason why practice makes perfect. Prep for standardized tests, cram for an upcoming exam, or refresh your academic skills, all with Peterson's award-winning educational content.	 Find A School Find the colleges and universities of your dreams! Search through nearly 4,200 two- and four-year accredited schools and find your perfect fit.	 Explore Careers Whether you're preparing to enter the workforce for the first time, considering a career change, or just looking to brush up on your skills, we're here to help. Create or update a resume or use the career advice tutorials to learn about everything from job searching and interviewing to negotiating salaries.	 Vocational Test Prep All that stands between you and a new career is a test. Prepare for your certification, credentialing, or licensing exams for vocations in fields such as nursing, law enforcement, public safety, teaching, and more.
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Gale Small Business Builder

Steve's Security Services edit

Default Scenario

SELECT YOUR ORGANIZATION TYPE

☒ For-Profit Business ☐ Nonprofit

- 1 Entrepreneur Profile** ▼
- 2 Business Ideation** ▼
- 3 Break-Even Analysis** ▼
- 4 Business Plans** ▼
- 5 Financial Projections** ▼


Entrepreneur Profile: Explore your characteristics by assessing your strengths, weaknesses, and motivation for becoming an entrepreneur.

Business Ideation: Test the viability of your business idea by filling out a Lean Canvas and value proposition.

Break-Even Analysis: Determine when your business will cover expenses and identify potential profits.

Business Plans: Create a Lean Business Plan, Full Business Plan, and Strategic Marketing Plan.

Financial Projections: Analyze your company's financial future by populating capital expenditures, debts and loans, sales, equity, and inventory.

Membership Statistics			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	Regular	Associate	Honorary
Life Member	30		
Annual Member-	13	10	
	Sub-Totals		
	43	10	0
Total 53			

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Summer is here and the White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 will have their last meeting on June 9, 2022.

If you need any supplies, please come early before the meeting starts. I will also stay after the meeting.

Wishing all of you a wonderful and safe summer.
Stay Safe Be Kind

Food for Thought:

If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over.

Semper Fi

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Bakke
Quartermaster



SEPTEMBER

Claire Brown

Larry Brown

Stan Gaberlavage

Lee Szyc

David Torres

THAT TIME OF YEAR

Start getting location Commitments for drop off boxes



Marine Corps League

White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246

Invites you to celebrate

The Marine Corps'

247th Birthday

on

Saturday, November 5, 2022

At

The Sun City Elks Club

**10760 W. Union Hills Drive,
Sun City, AZ**

Tickets

\$50.00 per person

\$400.00 for Table of 8

Schedule of Events

1600: Happy Hour & Photos

1730: Ceremony

1830: Dinner

Attire

- Military: Evening Dress, Dress
Blue "A"/"B", Service "A"
- MCL: Red Blazer Dress, Suit
- Civilian: Formal, Suit

Hotel Accommodations

Windmill Suites

12545 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ

(623) 583-0133

(Hotel is 8 minutes & 3.4 miles from the Elks Club)

Special Room Rates for Marine Corps Ball

- **Standard Room** **\$115.00**
- **Lake View Rooms** **\$130.00**
- **Lake Side Patio Rooms** **\$150.00**

***Tell front desk, "Marine Ball" for room
reservations at above rates.***

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Kudla at m.kudla@yahoo.com



Detachment Meeting Minutes White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246

Department of Arizona, Marine Corps League

June 9, 2022

OPENING MEETING:

Meeting called to order by Commandant Jerry Bakke at 1730 P. M.

BY RITUAL:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Mel Meter, secures the quarters being satisfied that all present are qualified to remain. The Sergeant-at-Arms posted the Colors and lead the detachment in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain, Doc Spencer proceeded with the opening prayer.

Members in Attendance: 25

Installation of Officers: Commandant Jerry Bakke installed the following 2022-2023 Officers:

Sr Vice Commandant - James Schickel

Jr Vice Commandant - Sal Politi

Chaplain Doc Spencer proceeded with a prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Commandant	Jerry Bakke	P
Sr Vice Commandant	James Schickel	P
Jr Vice Commandant	Sal Politi	P
Judge Advocate	Jeff Hodder	P

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Maria Jones

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Larry Brown, Past Commandant, Dept of Arizona and wife Claire Brown.

New Associate Member, Maria Jones, was installed and explained to the members of her experience with the United States Marine Corps. Welcome to the White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246. We look forward to working with you.

Natalya Schickel and Kylie Schickel daughters of Sr Vice Commandant James Schickel.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJUTANTS REPORT:

April and May minutes need to be approved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

April minutes and May Minutes were distributed via Detachment Newsletter. Motion made by Tom Blair, seconded by Steve Peterson and approved unanimously by the membership.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 received a special thank you card from Doc Spencer, Chaplain and his Sweet Ginny as they recovered from Covid. Sal and his wife have recovered from Covid also.

PAYMASTER REPORT:

Pete Pervi stated we need approval for April and May report. Motion made by Tom Blair, seconded by Steve Peterson and approved by the membership.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT:

Doc Spencer, Chaplain reported they have experienced a relatively quiet May and June. SgtMaj James Schickel, SITREP "I'm recovering well. I'm participating in weekly Physical Therapy at the VA. Bronchitis is gone except for lingering cough."

Reminder... "6-25-2022 at 11:00 am a memorial service for Marine James Becker at the Dignity Surprise Funeral Care facility on Bell at Sunrise with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services in honor of James."

Please pray for Marine Steve Peterson's wife, Barbara, for her upcoming surgery and REHAB this month.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Sr. Vice Commandant -	No Report
Jr. Vice Commandant -	No Report
Judge Advocate -	No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SCHOLARSHIP:	Sal Politi – 3 winners were approved at \$2,000 each. Sal and Pete Pervi are waiting to hear from the college of their choice for acceptance.
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COLOR GUARD:	Steve Peterson and Commandant Bakke – No Report
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FUNDRAISING:	Sal Politi – Memorial Day - \$1,090.00 (includes Steve Peterson's Patri Art - \$300.00).
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Fundraiser will be at Big Lots, 14537 W. Grand Ave., Surprise, AZ on June 18, 2022 and June 19, 2022.

NEWSLETTER:	Pete Pervi – No report at this time
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QUARTERMASTER:	April Sales: \$250.00 May Sales: \$320.00
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TOYS-FOR-TOTS:	Ramon Suarez – No report
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HOSPITALITY: (WTMD)	Cindy Hutto & Sal Politi – Cindy absent – No report
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HOSPITALITY: (W. Phoenix Valley))	Mike Kudla, Chair reported the social gatherings will continue during the months of July and August.
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**The Cabin - Whiskey and Grill on July 2, 2022
from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

and

**The Cabin - Whiskey and Grill on August 6, 2022
from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

HOMELESS VETERANS: Cindy Hutto – In the absence of Cindy Hutto, Bernie Bakke reported that she delivered one box of clothes to the US veterans.

BIRTHDAY BALL: Michael Kudla, Chair – Reported MCL Birthday Ball tickets may be purchased online. Should you have any questions, please email Michael at m.kudla@yahoo.com or Pete Pervi @ sgtusmc@outlook.com.

WEBMASTER: Pete Pervi – Nothing to Report

STATE CONV - 2023: Pete Pervi said he met with the Windmill Suites Management and the hotel will give the detachment two Hospitality Suites at no cost. The cost for rooms is \$119.00 and \$150.00. A complimentary free Buffet Breakfast for hotel guests only. If you would like to have breakfast, the charge will be \$6.00 per person. Pete also stated Steve Peterson will check with the hotel management if the detachment can hold a lunch barbecue out in the hotel courtyard.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

Commandant Jerry Bakke and Sr Vice Commandant James Schickel presented the following awards to:

Marine of the Year - Pete Pervi

Associate Marine of the Year – Virginia “Ginny” Spencer

Dept of Arizona 10 Year Awards were presented to several members.

Certificate of Distinguished Citizen Award – Sal Politi and Mel Meter

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to several members.

Commandant Bakke presented a Red Ribbon Gold Medallion ribbon to two Past Associate Marine of the Year Award to Claire Brown and Bernie Bakke.

Commandant Bakke presented a Coffee Mug to Rodney Thompson in appreciation for his dedication and services to the White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Pete requested \$2,000.00 for expenses while White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 is dark for the months of July and August. Motion made by Tom Blair, seconded by Larry Brown and approved by the membership.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Due to time limits, budget was not approved. Approval of 2022-2023 Budget will be at the next White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 General Meeting on September 8, 2022.

Larry Brown, Past Commandant, Dept. of Arizona announced that the Department of Arizona, Marine Corps League 50th Anniversary Fall Conference is on October 21 and October 22, 2022. It will be hosted by Copper State Detachment 906 and will be held at Cliff Castle Casino Hotel, Camp Verde, AZ. Larry also mentioned that if you are not attending the Department of Arizona Convention you will not receive a

50th Anniversary ribbon. Challenge Coins will be available for purchase. RV parking is available with hookups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Sergeant-at-Arms retired the Colors.

Chaplain Doc Spencer proceeded with the closing prayer.

Sergeant-at-Arms officially closed the meeting until **Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 1730 (5:30 pm)** when it will reopen for transaction of official business.

Commandant Jerry Bakke adjourned the meeting at 1830 P.M. (6:30).

RAFFLE:

Michael Kudla drew the Queen of Spades and won \$25.00. The balance in the jackpot is \$104.00.



WTMD#1246 BYLAW CHANGE

All Regular Members

Per the request of Commandant Jerry Bakke and Past Commandant Steve Peterson

the proposal is to change the White Tank Mountain, Detachment 1246, Bylaws, (Article II, Section 1, Article F, on page 6) to conform to the 2021 MCL National Revisions concerning Dual Membership. The change is to comply with National's revision and has been approved by the Board.

Currently our bylaws read:

F. DUAL MEMBERSHIP: Any applicant who, at the time of application to Detachment #1246, is also a member of another detachment, is eligible for "Associate Member" status only in Detachment #1246, and must make the existence of that membership in another detachment known at the time of application for membership in Detachment #1246. Such member shall be a regular member in the Detachment of such member's greatest tenure unless he/she makes a signed written request for transfer (forms available) and is approved by the two detachments.

2021 MCL National revisions read: (Proposed change)

"Dual Membership. (Membership in more than one Detachment by the same individual). When a member of the Marine Corps League becomes a regular member in good standing in more than one detachment, such membership in the subsequent detachments shall be counted for voting strength at department and national conventions only as an associate member. Such regular member shall be a regular voting member in the detachment of such member's greatest tenure unless he/she makes a signed written request for transfer of voting rights to the receiving detachment, which upon acceptance shall forward the copies of the transfer of voting rights to National Headquarters via the jurisdictional Department Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster if a department exists. The Transfer Form, Enclosure Seven, will be utilized for the purpose of transfer of voting rights to another detachment. A regular member with Dual Membership in more than one Detachment, will have all the rights and privileges within each Detachment. This includes that they have full voting rights within each Detachment to vote on any issue within each individual Detachment, to include the ability to hold an elected or appointed office in each Detachment.

HISTORY OF USMC - SEPTEMBER

September 2

1945 -The Japanese Empire officially surrendered to Allied forces on board the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, officially bringing World War II to an end.

With General Holland Smith having been transferred stateside in July of 1945, Lieutenant General Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, was chosen by Admiral Nimitz as the lone representative from the Marine Corps to attend the surrender ceremony.

September 3

1942 -The command echelon of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing arrived at Guadalcanal.

September 6

1983 - Two Marines were killed and a further two were wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon.

Heavy fighting continued for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit near their positions around the Beirut International Airport, culminating in the militant group Hezbollah bombing the Marine barracks in Beirut the following month.

September 8

1942 - The 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.

The Marines, who were supported by planes from Marine Air Group-23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of the village of Tasimboko, before advancing west into the rear of Japanese positions.

September 15

1950 - The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines captured Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor prior to the main landing. That same day, the 1st Marine Division under the command of Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon in what is widely viewed as one of, if not the greatest, amphibious assaults of the 20th Century.

September 16

1814 - A detachment of Marines from the Naval Station at New Orleans under the command of Major Daniel Carmick, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Barataria, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans. The stronghold was commanded by the famous pirate Jean Lafitte.

September 20

1950 - Marines of the 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River eight miles northwest of Seoul, South Korea. Five days later, the 1st and 5th Marines attacked Seoul and, by the 27th, had captured it.

September 16

1873 - 199 Marines and seamen from the *USS Pensacola* and the *USS Benicia* landed at the Bay of Panama in what is now Colombia, South America, to protect the railroad and American lives and property as local groups fought for control over the government of Panama.

1942 - 3d Marine Division activated at Camp Elliott, California.

September 27

1944 - US Marines secured and raised the American flag over the island of Peleliu. Despite Marines securing the island, pockets of Japanese soldiers held out and continued to fight against American forces until April of 1947, nearly two years after the war ended.

September 30

1945 - On September 30, 1945, U.S. Marines under the command of Major General Keller E. Rockey began landing in Northern China to assist the Chinese government accept the surrender of Japanese forces and repatriate Japanese soldiers and civilians.



Brief History of the United States Marine Corps

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a [resolution](#) stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps. Serving on land and at sea, these first Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations, including their first amphibious raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain (later Major) [Samuel Nicholas](#). The first commissioned officer in the Continental Marines, Nicholas remained the senior Marine officer throughout the American Revolution and is considered to be the first Marine [Commandant](#). The Treaty of Paris in April 1783 brought an end to the Revolutionary War and as the last of the Navy's ships were sold, the Continental Navy and Marines went out of existence.

Following the Revolutionary War and the formal re-establishment of the Marine Corps on 11 July 1798, Marines saw action in the quasi-war with France, landed in Santo Domingo, and took part in many operations against the Barbary pirates along the "Shores of Tripoli".



Marines took part in numerous naval operations during the War of 1812, as well as participating in the defense of Washington at Bladensburg, Maryland, and fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the defeat of the British at New Orleans.

The decades following the War of 1812 saw the Marines protecting American interests around the world, in the Caribbean, at the Falkland Islands, Sumatra and off the coast of West Africa, and also close to home in operations against the Seminole Indians in Florida.



During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Marines seized enemy seaports on both the Gulf and Pacific coasts. A battalion of Marines joined General Winfield Scott's army at Pueblo and fought all the way to the "Halls of Montezuma," Mexico City. Marines also served ashore and afloat in the Civil War (1861-1865). Although most service was with the Navy, a battalion fought at Bull Run and other units saw action with the blockading squadrons and at Cape Hatteras, New Orleans, Charleston, and Fort Fisher. The last third of the 19th century saw Marines making numerous landings throughout the world, especially in the Orient and in the Caribbean area.



Following the Spanish-American War (1898), in which Marines performed with valor in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, the Corps entered an era of expansion and professional development.

It saw active service in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902), the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900), and in numerous other nations, including Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, and Haiti.



In [World War I](#) the Marine Corps distinguished itself on the battlefields of France as the 4th Marine Brigade earned the title of "Devil Dogs" for heroic action during 1918 at Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Michiel, Blanc Mont, and in the final Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Marine aviation, which dates from 1912, also played a part in the war effort, as Marine pilots flew day bomber missions over France and Belgium. More than 30,000 Marines served in France and more than a third were killed or wounded in six months of intense fighting.



During the two decades before [World War II](#), the Marine Corps began to develop in earnest the doctrine, equipment, and organization needed for amphibious warfare. The success of this effort was proven first on Guadalcanal, then on Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. By the end of the war in 1945, the Marine Corps had grown to include six divisions, five air wings, and supporting troops. Its strength in World War II peaked at 485,113. The war cost the Marines nearly 87,000 dead and wounded, and 82 Marines had earned the Medal of Honor.

While Marine units took part in the post-war occupation of Japan and North China, studies were undertaken at Quantico, Virginia, which concentrated on attaining a "vertical envelopment" capability for the Corps through the use of helicopters.



Landing at Inchon, [Korea](#) in September 1950, Marines proved that the doctrine of amphibious assault was still viable and necessary. After the recapture of Seoul, the Marines advanced to the Chosin Reservoir only to see the Chinese Communists enter the war. After years of offensives, counter-offensives, seemingly endless trench warfare, and occupation duty, the last Marine ground troops were withdrawn in March 1955. More than 25,000 Marines were killed or wounded during the Korean War.

In July 1958, a brigade-size force landed in Lebanon to restore order. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, a large amphibious force was marshaled but not landed. In April 1965, a brigade of Marines landed in the Dominican Republic to protect Americans and evacuate those who wished to leave.



The landing of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Da Nang in 1965 marked the beginning of large-scale Marine involvement in [Vietnam](#). By summer 1968, after the enemy's Tet Offensive, Marine Corps strength in Vietnam rose to a peak of approximately 85,000. The Marine withdrawal began in 1969 as the South Vietnamese began to assume a larger role in the fighting; the last Marine ground forces were out of Vietnam by June 1971.

The Vietnam War, longest in the history of the Marine Corps, exacted a high cost as well with over 13,000 Marines killed and more than 88,000 wounded. In the spring of 1975, Marines evacuated embassy staffs, American citizens, and refugees in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. In May, Marines played an integral role in the rescue of the crew of the SS *Mayaguez* captured off the coast of Cambodia.

The mid-1970s saw the Marine Corps assume an increasingly significant role in defending NATO's northern flank as amphibious units of the 2d Marine Division participated in exercises throughout northern Europe. The Marine Corps

also played a key role in the development of the Rapid Deployment Force, a multi-service organization created to insure a flexible, timely military response around the world when needed. The Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) concept was developed to enhance this capability by prestaging equipment needed for combat in the vicinity of the designated area of operations, and reduce response time as Marines travel by air to link up with MPS assets.

The 1980s brought an increasing number of terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies around the world. Marine Security Guards, under the direction of the State Department, continued to serve with distinction in the face of this challenge. In August 1982, Marine units landed at Beirut, [Lebanon](#), as part of the multi-national peace-keeping force. For the next 19 months these units faced the hazards of their mission with courage and professionalism. In October 1983, Marines took part in the highly successful, short-notice intervention in Grenada. As the decade of the 1980s came to a close, Marines were summoned to respond to instability in Central America. Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama in December 1989 to protect American lives and restore the democratic process in that nation.



Less than a year later, in August 1990, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait set in motion events that would lead to the largest movement of Marine Corps forces since World War II. Between August 1990 and January 1991, some 24 infantry battalions, 40 squadrons, and more than 92,000 Marines deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of [Operation Desert Shield](#). [Operation Desert Storm](#) was launched 16 January 1991, the day the air campaign began.

The main attack came overland beginning 24 February when the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions breached the Iraqi defense lines and stormed into occupied Kuwait. By the morning of February 28, 100 hours after the ground war began, almost the entire Iraqi Army in the Kuwaiti theater of operations had been encircled, with 4,000 tanks destroyed and 42 divisions destroyed or rendered ineffective.

Overshadowed by the events in the Persian Gulf during 1990-91, were a number of other significant Marine deployments demonstrating the Corps' flexible and rapid response. Included among these were non-combatant evacuation operations in Liberia and Somalia and humanitarian lifesaving operations in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and northern Iraq.



In December 1992, Marines landed in Somalia marking the beginning of a two-year humanitarian relief operation in that famine-stricken and strife-torn nation. In another part of the world, Marine Corps aircraft supported Operation Deny Flight in the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. During April 1994, Marines once again demonstrated their ability to protect American citizens in remote parts of the world when a Marine task force evacuated U.S. citizens from Rwanda in response to civil unrest in that country.

Closer to home, Marines went ashore in September 1994 in Haiti as part of the U.S. force participating in the restoration of democracy in that country. During this same period Marines were actively engaged in providing assistance to the Nation's counter-drug effort, assisting in battling wild fires in the western United States, and aiding in flood and hurricane relief operations.

The Marine Corps continued its tradition of innovation to meet the challenges of a new century. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory was created in 1995 to evaluate change, assess the impact of new technologies on warfighting, and expedite the introduction of new capabilities into the operating forces of the Marine Corps. Exercises such as "Hunter Warrior," and "Urban Warrior" were designed to explore future tactical concepts, and to examine facets of military operations in urban environments.

During the late 1990's, Marine Corps units deployed to several African nations, including Liberia, the Central African Republic, Zaire, and Eritrea, in order to provide security and assist in the evacuation of American citizens during periods of political and civil instability in those nations.



Humanitarian and disaster relief operations were also conducted by Marines during 1998 in Kenya, and in the Central American nations of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In 1999, Marine units deployed to Kosovo in

support of Operation Allied Force. Soon after the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., Marine units deployed to the Arabian Sea and in November set up a forward operating base in southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2002, the Marine Corps continued to play a key role in the Global War on Terrorism. Marines operated in diverse locations, from Afghanistan, to the Arabian Gulf, to the Horn of Africa and the Philippines. Early 2003 saw the largest deployment of Marine forces since the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 when 76,000 Marines deployed to the Central Command area for combat operations against Iraq.



The I Marine Expeditionary Force, including Task Force Tarawa and the United Kingdom's 1st Armored Division, were the first conventional ground units to enter Iraq in late March as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft from the 3d Marine Air Wing provided continuous close air and assault support to Marine and coalition units as they drove deeper into Iraq. On the ground, Marines from I MEF moved nearly 400 miles from the Kuwait border to Baghdad and Tikrit, Iraq, and eliminated the last organized resistance by Iraqi military forces. Although I MEF would transition to stabilization and security operations and then redeploy to the U.S. by late September, I MEF began preparing for a return to Iraq in early 2004.

The adaptability and reliability of Marine forces continued to be highlighted around the world from the Horn of Africa to Haiti and to the Philippines.



Across the U.S., Marine units from both coasts fought and contained wildfires, and also supported hurricane relief efforts in various parts of the country. In December, 2004, a tsunami struck numerous nations in the Indian Ocean region killing more than 150,000 and causing enormous devastation. Marine units from III MEF were immediately deployed to Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka to assist in disaster relief operations.



In early 2005, the II Marine Expeditionary Force replaced I MEF in Iraq as the primary focus began to shift to partnership operations with the Iraqi Security Forces. Marine units continued to provide air and ground support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Closer to home, the flexibility and responsiveness of the Navy/Marine team was exhibited during September and October when nearly 3000 Marines and sailors conducted search and rescue, humanitarian relief, and disaster recovery operations in Louisiana and Mississippi in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Today's Marine Corps stands ready to continue in the proud tradition of those who so valiantly fought and died at Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. Combining a long and proud heritage of faithful service to the nation, with the resolve to face tomorrow's challenges will continue to keep the Marine Corps the "best of the best."

Reference Branch
USMC History Division
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Everything you need to know about monkeypox

Questions and answers about monkeypox

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a contagious viral disease that is closely related to the one that causes smallpox, but the disease is generally less severe and less contagious. Unlike the [COVID-19 virus](#), which was a virus that was not known until 2020, monkeypox is a well-known illness that was first recognized in research animals in 1958.

Prior to the current outbreak, this infection was only found occasionally in some countries in central and western Africa. Prior outbreaks outside of these countries were small and short-lived.

Is the virus in the United States? If so, how is VA addressing it?

On May 7, 2022, the world was alerted to a confirmed case of monkeypox in the United Kingdom. Since then, the virus has spread to many countries including the United States, and the World Health Organization has declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

On Aug. 4, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared it a Public Health Emergency in the United States.

VA is working in close collaboration with local and state public health authorities, as well as other federal agencies like Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure Veterans have access to testing, treatment and prevention tools, such as antivirals and vaccines.

In addition, VA is closely following clinical, infection control, and occupational health guidance provided by the CDC.

How does the virus spread?

Monkeypox spreads in a few ways.

- It can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:
 - Most commonly through direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs or body fluids from a person with monkeypox.
 - Less commonly from touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox or with respiratory secretions.
- This direct contact can happen during intimate contact, including:

- Oral, anal and vaginal sex, or touching the genitals of a person with monkeypox.
- Hugging, massage and kissing.
- Prolonged face-to-face contact.
- Less commonly in the current outbreak, through touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as bedding, towels, fetish gear, and sex toys.
- A pregnant person can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta.

How long does it last?

Monkeypox normally takes about two weeks to four weeks to run its course. If you are diagnosed, your provider will monitor you until the illness is resolved.

Is it fatal?

The less severe Clade II strain is causing the current world outbreak (2022). To date, no one has died from this outbreak in the United States. But monkeypox can lead to other problems (complications) like pneumonia and infections in your brain (encephalitis) or eyes, which can be fatal.

Should I get tested?

Ask your health care provider if you should get a monkeypox test if you have symptoms (like an unexplained rash).

- Your VA provider can help you get a test.
- [Get a list of monkeypox symptoms on the CDC website](#)
- [Send a secure message to your provider](#)

Can I get the vaccine at VA?

VA received an initial allocation of 13,000 vials (up to 65,000 doses) of JYNNEOS™ monkeypox vaccine from Department of Health and Human Services in August. VA will continue to receive additional allocation of vials of JYNNEOS™ to reduce the spread of monkeypox as more product is available within the supply chain.

What can you tell me about the vaccine?

For Veterans who need the vaccine, the series requires 2 doses per person, 28 days apart.

- Due to the limited supply, and to ensure availability for Veterans who need it, most Veterans will receive their dose of the vaccine in the shallow layers between their skin (intradermal) on their forearm, as authorized by an FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

This route, which is being used across the country, uses less vaccine per person and is safe and effective.

- Some Veterans who have had a type of scarring called a “keloid” will get a dose in the upper arm that is injected in the layer of fat below the skin (subcutaneous).

Who is eligible for the monkeypox vaccine?

Any person who comes in direct skin-to-skin contact with another who is infected may catch monkeypox. The current outbreak has, for now, disproportionately affected the gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men who should be prioritized for vaccine based on their personal risk of exposure.

Contact your nearest VA health facility for the latest information.

- [Learn more about monkeypox vaccines on the CDC website](#)
- [Find your nearest VA health facility](#)

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