



Electronic Chapter Newsletter Update

March, 2016 Issue [Check Out our Website here](#)

Thank you for your continued support and membership.



Tun Tavern Team

Thank you to this team of individuals who annually provide an additional \$100 of financial support to the 1st Marines Division Desert Cities MPMOH Chapter - it is greatly appreciated. Newest members are Vince Mast, Jack Mennis and Henry Sanchez.

Mike Bales | Carl Brooks | Joe Daily | Dave Franklin | Charlie Garbarini | Frank Gillette / Sam Huttenhower / Franz Jevene / Jim Larsh | Howard Lehman | Vince Mast / Gene McClendon | Jack Mennis / George Moffatt | Marilyn Paige / Richard Partee | Bill Ross | Henry Sanchez / Sandy Sandoval | Ray Schum | Bob Shepard | Buddy Sklar | George Stettler | Jim Sullivan | Dale Turner | Quint Villanueva | Col Mike Walker | Michael Walker | Myrl Wallace | Linn Wiley

TUN TAVERN TEAM DINNER IN MARCH



The Tun Tavern Team will have their next dinner on March 23rd to share an evening of good food and drink. Location will be Villagio Italian Restaurant in Palm Desert at 1800. Please make a reservation at 760 901-5494. Tun Tavern Members only.

IN THE MAIL

Please watch your mailbox for the mailed 2016 Ballots.

Need your vote and the ballot returned by November 4th. Your participation is appreciated



Executive Board

President

George Stettler

Vice President

Richard Partee

Treasurer/Secretary

James E. Sullivan

Sergeant At Arms

Bruce Takacs

Directors

Michael Holquin

Robert Shepard

Quint Villanueva

Past Presidents

Bill Ping, 1998-02 RIP

Joseph A. Daily, 2002-06

James E. Sullivan, 2006-09

Quintin Villanueva, 2009-12

Richard Partee, 2012-14

THE MARINES ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR II

provided by Col Mike Walker, USMC (Ret.)

Before Pearl Harbor, the Corps was focused on Europe and the Marines were positioned to be the first to fight. The 1st Marine Provisional Brigade in Iceland represented the most advanced American forces in 1941.

How the Marines got to Iceland was unusual. A possession of Denmark, the British occupied it with Royal Marines (Operation Fork) after Nazi Germany occupied Denmark in April 1940. As the war raged, the British became desperate to shift the Iceland garrison to the war fronts. The U.S. cautiously agreed to replace them (at the time, 75% of Americans were against entering the war). The original plan was for the 1st "Big Red One" Infantry Division to go. Then it was settled to use the 5th Infantry Division and finally to use the Marines to spearhead the landing. The 1st Marine Provisional Brigade was formed in Charleston, S.C. and built around the 6th Marine Regiment and 5th Defense Battalion. The brigade arrived at Reykjavik on 7 July 1941 and set up its defenses.

Additionally, the newly formed 1st Marine Division (activated 1 February 1941) had been forward deployed to Cuba. The activation ceremony took place on the U.S.S. Texas, anchored in Guantanamo Bay. As an aside, the 1st Marine Regiment was first activated at Guantanamo Bay back in 1911. These units were part of the 1st Provisional Corps, FMF Atlantic.

Realizing that no one was going to sail to safe and peaceful ports in France as in the First World War, the U.S. Army officially and belatedly adopted Marine Corps amphibious landing doctrine. In May 1941 the 1st Marine Division redeployed to Quantico and began joint amphibious training with the 1st Infantry Division. The 2nd Marine Division had also been activated on 1 February 1941 in San Diego and teamed with the 3rd Infantry Division also to conduct joint amphibious warfare training on the Pacific Coast.

After Pearl Harbor, in the Office of War Plans in the Pentagon, a newly minted Brigadier General named Dwight Eisenhower drafted America's strategic war plan that adopted the "Europe first" policy with the key initial mission in the Pacific to keep the sea lanes from America to Australia and New Zealand open.

To get that job done, it became imperative to get the



Marines Helping Marines

This should apply to
our membership.

We
should help our
fellow members who
have medical issues
and need help with
transportation to our
monthly luncheons.

So, if you should
need transportation
to meetings or
events, please let us
know.

Call (760) 901-5494
and leave a message.



7TH MARINES TO HOST DV DAY

On March 9th the Chapter
is invited to participate in
Distinguished Visitor's
Day.

We will see the 2nd
Battalion 7th Marines go

Marines to the Pacific. The 1st Marine Division set sail in April. The U.S. Army, getting ready for the landings in North Africa, replaced the 1st Marine Division with the amphibiously trained 3rd Infantry Division.

The "gung ho" 7th Marines arrived first in the Pacific Theater, landing at British Samoa that month. Unfortunately, they were so far from Guadalcanal that the 1st Marine Division replaced them with the 2nd Marines and 1st Battalion, 10th Marines (with a tough Sergeant named Ray Wilburn in its ranks) for invasion of the Solomon Islands in August 1942.

The 1st Marine Provisional Brigade in Iceland was relieved by the 10th U.S. Infantry (Reinforced) and returned to the States on 25 March 1942. The 6th Marines were immediately sent to Camp Pendleton to rejoin the 2nd Marine Division preparing to sail for the South Pacific.

The rest, as they say, is history.

"Marines know how to use their bayonets. Army bayonets may as well be used as paper weights."

Navy Times, November, 1994

MARCH 17th LUNCHEON MEETING



MGen Lewis A. Craparotta,
Commanding General, Marine
Corps Air Ground Combat
Center, 29 Palms will be the
Guest of Honor at our **March
17th** Luncheon. Make your
reservation early.

SGTMAJ RODNEY LANE

through their final training exercise before deployment to the middle east the next month.

Members interested in participating will need to sign a Liability Release and send a copy of their drivers license to:
Major Christopher McGuire, 7th Marines

Here's to a drunken Marine
With beer in his canteen!

You've heard of the
Unknown Soldier

But, never an unknown
Marine!"

*---An old toast often repeated
by Col John Ripley, Navy Cross*



The Chapter is invited to attend the Post and Relief Ceremony for Lane at 1000, Friday, 18 March at Gray's Field, MCAGCC, 29 Palms.

MGEN O'DONOHUE TO SPEAK IN APRIL



The 1st Marine Division Commanding General, MGen Dan O'Donohue has agreed to be the Guest of Honor / Speaker at the **April 21st** luncheon meeting.

Some of us have met the general at the 3 / 4 Reactivation and the 7th Marines Change of Command Ceremony in December.

WE CONTINUE TO NEED A FEW GOOD MEN!



We need your help to recruit at least one new member in 2016.

Please help us **grow** the Chapter. Membership applications can be down loaded off our website:
click link or image to download

THREE NEW MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY!

We welcomed Henry Sanchez, Mac Shoemaker and Harry Schaffner recently into the Chapter.

Sanchez was welcomed back after a three year hiatus. He was a key player in our fund raising efforts when he was active. Henry is a Vietnam veteran.

Schoemaker served with the 3rd Marine Division 1986 - 1996. He lives in La Quinta. He was recruited by Vince Mast.

Schaffner was a JAG Officer during his service 1967 - 1973. He was recruited by Bruno Takacs

ROTARY CLUB DONATES \$1,000!

The Chapter received this donation from the Covina Rotary Charities through the effort of Dick Partee. His brother is a member and asked Dick for help in lining up a speaker for their Field of Honor event. The donation was made in appreciation for Dick's help.



2016 CHAPTER DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE

Please send your \$50 check in this month. Tun Tavern Team dues are also due now in the amount of \$100.

Thanks again to Col Mike Walker for his contribution this month. Mike is enjoying his life in Meridian, Idaho and sends his regards to our members. He has remained a Chapter member and a member of the Tun Tavern Team.

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for future editions.

SEMPER FIDELIS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim".

JIM SULLIVAN, EDITOR

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED

