

COMING EVENTS

Next Regular Monthly Meeting: To be determined based on coronavirus restrictions

Next Quarterly Devil Dog Growl/Pack Growl: TBD

Monthly Breakfast with Spouses: 3rd Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM at Quinn's 1005 S Vista Ave., Boise, ID

Weekly Coffee: 8:30 AM Saturdays at Quinn's, 1005 S Vista Ave., Boise, ID

PURPOSE & INTENT: To keep detachment members informed of past and future detachment actions and activities. To present a concise summary of the detachment's monthly business meeting.

Because the July detachment meeting was cancelled due coronavirus restrictions, this newsletter's form will be different from what you are accustomed to reading.

Here is the headline that I ask you to keep in mind as you read this newsletter:

COMPANY C'S IMMINENT DEACTIVATION MEANS THAT OTHER THAN MARINE RECRUITERS, THE TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT WILL BECOME THE MOST VISIBLE U. S. MARINE PRESENCE IN THE TREASURE VALLEY

CAN THE TVD MEET THAT CHALLENGE?

The detachment's leadership's focus since the June business meeting has been on the changes coming to Company C, 4th Tank Battalion, and how those changes may affect our MCL detachment. To state the effect of the change succinctly, once Company C is deactivated, which will be marked by a deactivation ceremony scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2020, at 1800 or 6:00 PM, our detachment may be called on to perform in ways we've not been asked to perform in the past.

The I&I Staff, will continue its I&I function until all Company C Marines are administratively processed to either other USMCR units, or a different USMCR status; a process that is projected to be complete by March 2021. Then, the staff will focus on their alternate mission, site-support unit for various Marine units using the Gowen Field training facility south of Gowen Field, will continue in place until sometime in 2022.

To summarize:

- August 14, 2020, Company C is officially deactivated.
- March 2021, all Company C Marines are transferred to other duties, and the I&I Staff focuses on site support staff responsibilities.
- March 2022, the site support staff is deactivated or perhaps replaced by a new I&I staff for a new USMCR unit, if that happens. That possibility is speculative at this time.

With these changes to the USMCR in Boise, our detachment may be asked to accomplish tasks that until now we've not had to perform because C Company and its I&I Staff accomplished them. The specific tasks are:

- Rendering honors for deceased Marines.
- Conducting a Toys-for-Tots drive.
- Planning and conducting a Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Rendering honors to deceased Marines, is something that I think is within the detachment’s capabilities. However, I assess the capability of the detachment to successfully conduct a Toys-for-Tots drive, and to plan, organize, and conduct a Marine Corps Birthday Ball as problematic. My assessment, however, does not have to become reality.

At a board of trustees meeting on July 15th, I was authorized to make a recruiting presentation to Company C’s Marines. Along with Walt Modler and Skip Nakashima, I made the presentation on Friday, July, 24th to approximately 70 Company C, Marines. In the presentation I stressed that for the TVD to accomplish the many honors ceremonies the I&I Staff and the company conduct, we needed to have a pool of members from which we can form teams capable of conducting the flag folding and presentation ceremony they currently conduct at the Boise Veterans’ Cemetery.

From time-to-time, the company and the I&I Staff also field a color guard and a ceremonial firing detail. Ideally, the TVD, would also accomplish those tasks, but to do that well, we need more younger members.

I was frank with the C Company Marines on three points:

- One, because the majority of our 96 members are 60-years old or older, many are not physically capable of properly performing certain honors requirements.
- Two, I told them the out-of-pocket cost of uniforms that they would need to bear.
- Three, I acknowledged that making the commitment to join the detachment to participate as members of honors details would be a challenge for them because I assume that they all have jobs or may be going to school full time, and some have families to care for.

The detachment has a color guard that was organized and continues under the leadership of Marine Michael Schubert. I discussed the color guard’s status with Mike, and he told me that its existence continues and can perform, but it is rarely called on to perform. That may change as Company C draws down.

It remains to be seen whether we can perform the other ceremonial duties that Company C and the I&I Staff currently perform.

It is difficult to imagine Boise, and the surrounding area without an organized Marine Corps Reserve unit, but the loss of Company C, also gives our Treasure Valley Detachment a reason for being other than camaraderie.

I hope this change to the USMCR in Boise, will motivate each of you to invigorate your interest and participation in detachment activities, and that you will encourage any and all Marines living in the Treasure Valley, who you know to join the detachment and help us meet the challenge.

Gary Randel, Editor

Available for viewing at the detachment website page: <http://tvdmccl.org/newsletters/>

TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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