



MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSOCIATION

“In Every Clime and Place”



Newsletter

Official Publication of the Marine Embassy Guard Association

Fall 2012

Mission of the Marine Embassy Guard Association

- To inspire love of Corps and Country
- To encourage Marines to aspire to a career in the Marine Security Guard program
- To render aid to Marines and others when in need
- To promote camaraderie and esprit de corps
- To provide a forum in which to assemble for social interaction
- To serve as a catalyst for communications on matters of mutual interest
- To revere the memory of our departed shipmates
- To assist in preserving the historical records of Marine Security Guards and their achievements
- To perform any other lawful purpose or purposes



Lejeune Doctor Files PTSD Whistle-blower Lawsuit

The Daily News, Jacksonville, N.C. | by Amanda Wilcox

A former Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital psychiatrist who claimed his contract with the hospital was wrongfully terminated in 2009 has recently filed a federal whistleblower lawsuit in U.S. District Court.

In the lawsuit, Dr. Kernan Manion, a board certified psychiatrist for more than 25 years, claims he was wrongfully terminated for reporting mishandled cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Health Center. He also claims the center lacked the safety protocols necessary to protect those at the base from patients who were diagnosed as potentially violent to themselves or others.

Manion filed the lawsuit against the contracting companies that hired him to work at the hospital: Spectrum Healthcare Resources and Nitelines Kuhana JV

Manion was hired in early 2009 by Spectrum and Nitelines to provide psychiatric treatment to service members returning from deployment. The suit noted that many of Manion's patients suffered from PTSD or TBI, and Manion believed he was "under constant pressure from his superior to rate patients as acceptable for deployment ... even in circumstances where patients were diagnosed as posing a violent threat to themselves or others or were dangerous for combat deployment due to the presence of a significant mental illness," according to the lawsuit

The suit describes two cases in which Manion witnessed violent acts by his patients, one of which recounts a post-deployment Marine who, in a diagnosed psychotic rage, repeatedly karate-punched a table and stormed out of his session. There was "no support available nor even protocol in place to contain or subdue the patient ... or to emergently and safely get him to urgent care," according to the suit.

The other incident describes Manion's account of watching a service member repeatedly punch a telephone pole with his bare fists, after which he picked up a piece of lumber with a nail protruding through it and walked through the grounds cursing to himself.

Manion "promptly notified appropriate authorities and yet found grossly deficient responses," according to the suit.

When he brought the issues to the attention of his supervisors and to Capt.

Continued on next page...

Chairman's Corner

Though MSGs were not involved with the tragedy in Libya on 9/11/2012, I have strong emotions about losing an Ambassador due to an act of terrorism against the United States. The how and why blame game surrounding this sad event is still a work-in-process. Let us learn the truth from this and let it never happen again!

The Ship's Store team of Joe and Suzie Mitchell will be transitioning their workload to one of our newly elected MEGA Director, Paul Robinson. I'm personally proud of saying the Ankara tradition keeps on rolling along.

Tim Wood will be our new Auction Chairman, taking over the reins from Ed Vasgerdsian. I got a feeling we will still have the pleasure of hearing the thinly disguised phases of "give me your money" from Ed V during the live auction segment of the 2013 Reunion.

Our 2013 Reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee during 11-14 April 2013. We will keep you updated on the MEGA website and through our association-wide Mega-mail communications, Google Groups.

As the current Membership Chairman, I am pleased to announce that we have had 14 new members added to our membership rolls, since the last newsletter. There have also been a fair amount of boomerang members.

On behalf of the entire MEGA Board of Directors and Officers I'd like to welcome our new members. Contact information is located in the Member's Area of our website.

Welcome Aboard:

Brian L. Allinger, Regular Member, Lisbon PT 98-99, Lagos NG 99-00

Raymond E. Grey, Regular Member, Warsaw PL 54-55, Stuttgart DE 55-56

Cliff A. Hensman, Regular Member, Ankara TR 69-72

Deric B. Hollings, Regular Member, Rio de Janeiro BR 99-00, Lima PE 00-00

Richard H. LaBoyne, Regular Member, Prague CZ 80-81, Bangkok TH 81-82

Stephen A. Lord, Regular Member, Monrovia LR 61-62, Athens GR 62-63

Douglas N. Machado, Life Member, Bonn DE 54-55, Bremen DE 55-55, Düsseldorf DE 55-56

James W. MacKenzie, Regular Member, Warsaw PL 68-69, Vienna AT 69-70

LaPrelle (Malik) R. Mainor, Regular Member, Nairobi KE 92-94, Muscat OM 94-95

Mike L. Mascarenas, Regular Member. Paris FR 67-67, Brussels BE 67-69

Martha G. Robinson, Associate Member

Russell E. State, Life Member, Beirut LB 83-84, Copenhagen DK 84-85, Havana CU 85-86

Reginald S. Waller, Regular Member, Tunis TN 79-81

Gary W. Wright, Regular Member, Bamako ML 75-76, Panama City PA 76-78

Passing Members

MEGA members who passed since the last newsletter:

Otto Haversat – Life Member – Nicosia, Cyprus - 1969-1971

Rex Drake – Life Member – Geneva, Switzerland – 1971-1973

Honor Roll Addition:

January 1, 1985 Sergeant Jonathan E. Watson had completed his MSG tour, which included postings in Bogota Columbia and Asuncion Paraguay. He died in the crash of Eastern Airlines Flight 980 which departed Asuncion bound for La Paz, Bolivia, His name will be carried on Category 1 of MEGA's Honor Roll and called during our Post 1 Ceremony.

Our Historical Archives photo gallery has now grown to over 12,100 picture/images. Membership contributions, to the photo gallery and the detachment web pages, are crucial to the success of our Archives. When was the last time you contributed something to our Archives?

Semper Fidelis,

Stewart

sgrant@embassymarine.org



Continued from front page

Gerard Cox, the commanding officer of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune at the time, he claims he was ignored, and Nitelines informed him in writing to cease and desist all communication with the government.

Two months later, in September 2009, he filed an urgent complaint to the inspector general of the Department of Defense asking him to address the issues his supervisors would not. Nitelines terminated his contract two days after he filed the complaint.

His complaint prompted an onsite quality assurance investigation, which took place in December of that year, according to archived Daily News reports. Findings from the reviews are protected under U.S. Code title 10, section 1102; however, in February of 2010 then-commander of Navy Medicine East Rear Adm. Bob Kiser, told The Daily News that he was satisfied with the results of those reviews.

Manion is now asking the court to grant damages based on the loss of pay and benefits from his termination, as well as compensation for “severe emotional distress, humiliation, anxiety and damages to reputation and future employment.” The suit also asks that the court reinstate Manion to his former position as a psychiatrist at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune.

Manion’s attorney, Washington, D.C. lawyer Richard Renner, said in general, most whistleblowers seek reinstatement to their former positions because they “tend to be the types of employees who take to heart the mission of the organization and just find themselves in conflict with supervisors who have ulterior motives.”

Manion told The Daily News he had been advised by his lawyers not to comment on the lawsuit.

Niteline Vice President Charles Broom also declined to comment, and Spectrum President George Tracy said they could not “comment about any pending litigation, but please note that we are a subcontractor with administrative duties related to staffing and we do not have any clinical or procedural authority at all.”

When asked whether Spectrum had the ability to fire Manion, Tracy repeated his statement.

Renner said the defendants are expected to answer the complaint within the month.

New Board of Director Scott Smith



I live in Grapevine, Texas just North of Dallas Fort Worth Airport. I was discharged from the Marine Corps in Miami and went home to Oxon Hill, Maryland where my parents lived and where Dad was still in the Navy, and stationed at the Naval Annex just outside of Henderson Hall. My first job was a gravedigger at Arlington National

Cemetery at the height of the Viet Nam war. I joined the US Park Police and 2 weeks into training I dove out of a boat and broke 5 cervical bones in my neck. Although I was totally paralyzed, ten days later I walked out of the hospital but never became a police officer. After that it was 20 years of National Park Service and leaving at the age of 40. Since then computer sales, automobile sales, mortgage business and worked for Broadview Security (formerly Brinks) as a quality coach. I retired in 2010 and now volunteer for several veterans’ causes such as peer mentor for the Dallas and Tarrant Counties Veteran Diversion Court programs, Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans, and Bring Everyone into the Zone. Most recently I started with Tarrant County Mental Health and Mental Retardation as a part-time Peer Specialist.



Photos by Ed Vasgerdsian

The Last Americans Out Of Seoul

By Tom Moore

In 1948, under the provisions of Section 562 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, the U.S. Department of State and the Secretary of the Navy signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the use of U.S. Marines as security guards (MSG) at overseas foreign posts. That cleared the way for 83 U.S. Marines to begin training at the Foreign Service Institute. In 1949, 6 MSGs were sent to Bangkok and 9 to Tangier. By late 1949, 300 MSGs were at posts throughout the world.

On 25 June 1950, the U.S. Embassy phone in Seoul began ringing at 0530. Callers asked the Marine watch standers, "What's going on?" They had no idea. Then, at 0830, a UPI correspondent came into the U.S. Embassy saying that the North Koreans had crossed over the 38th parallel in force, with tanks going south.

U.S. Ambassador John J. Muccio asked Sgt. Paul Dupras to recall all twenty embassy MSGs who were quartered in the Capitol Apartments. Sergeants Gus Siefken and George Lampman left for the apartments from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul's Bando Peninsula Hotel in the MSG's jeep, painted bright orange to distinguish it from U.S. Army vehicles. The orange jeep caught the attention of two enemy Yak aircraft, which made strafing passes on it but caused no damage.

By midnight on 25 June 1950, Deputy U.S. Ambassador Everett F. Drumright reported that the North Korean advance to Seoul was unstoppable. That began a busy time for the MSGs.

When the decision was made to evacuate American dependents, MSGs were dispatched to alert embassy families. MSG personnel destroyed the embassy vehicles to prevent their use by the enemy. They also burned the embassy's enormous amount of classified material, which entailed a long, painstaking process.

The MSGs used furnaces in the embassy basement to finish the job. It took eight MSGs working around the clock until Tuesday, 27 June 1950, to burn it all and destroy the code machines. The MSGs also ensured that a group of 682 women and children were safely taken to the port of Inchon and placed on board a Norwegian fertilizer hauler ship, the Reinholt.

MSGs escorted bus loads of embassy employees to Kimpo Aerodrome, to be evacuated in several C-54 transport planes. The last C-54 in the group was attacked by enemy Yak fighter aircraft. About 1,500 Americans were evacuated to Japan—but the Marines themselves still had to get out of Seoul.

The commander in charge of the MSG detachment, M/Sgt. John F. Runck, had been a Japanese POW in WWII. He vowed that none of his MSGs were going to be captured by the enemy. At the end, the MSGs were put on the last aircraft out of Kimpo, before the fall of Seoul.

Reach Tom Moore at tm103ps@yahoo.com

About the Author: Tom Moore was raised in Indiana. After Korean War service with the U.S. Navy, he was employed for forty years in insurance company management. Moore, who has a son and a grandson, lives with his wife Ernestine in Florida.

A Member Shares a Few Memories

I was one of 12 MSGs in Saigon from July 1953 to Dec 1955.

Saigon is where I met my future wife Ann, the daughter of Daly C. Lavergne who was Deputy Chief. Ann passed away in April of this year, but we shared 56 years wonderful years together and had 4 children, two of whom became Marines, the oldest son and the youngest daughter.



The Marine on the left is Sgt. Robert Albietz. He's 80 years old and I'm a year younger and we still keep touch. I am in the center.

Thanks,
John L Krause, Sgt USMC
Semper Fi

USMC birthday ball, I did not have dress blues to wear, that's why the tux.



Love on the Saigon Streets



Election Results

At the recent reunion in Washington, DC., the membership voted in three new members from five candidates for the Board of Directors.

The election results in order of ballot placement were:

Paul R. Robinson	137
Ed Vasgerdsian	173
Scott V. Smith	126
Stewart M. Grant	171
James K. Harkins, Jr.	85

Additionally, Charles W. Kranz, Sr. was elected Secretary with 229 votes. This position was not contested.

The three elected candidates assumed their seats as new Directors for three-year terms on the MEGA Board as of the meeting of the “new board” on Saturday, April 28th immediately following the General Session meeting. At that meeting, Stewart Grant was re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, while Raymond L. Kunkle was elected Vice-Chairman for the 2012-2013.

In addition to the election of the Board Members and a Secretary, the membership also voted for three changes in the MEGA By-Laws (see sidebar).

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Mitchell for temporarily filling the position on the Board as a result of the passing of Board Member William McClure.

Assuming there are no resignations from the Board of Directors, there will be three positions open for the Board next year as well as the Treasurer’s position. It’s not too early to consider placing your name in contention for one of these positions.

Virgil Johnson, Chairman
Elections Committee



Changes in the MEGA By-Laws:

ARTICLE IV, 4-03 – REGULAR MEMBERSHIP.

Applicants of MSG Bn and Lettered Companies who have received the MSG ribbon also qualify for regular membership if they provide proof of receiving MSG ribbon, no exceptions.

Change: “MSG Bn” to MSG Command and staff.

PASSED 203-18

ARTICLE V, 5-02 – ANNUAL MEETING.

Newly elected officers and directors will be installed in office at the annual muster banquet.

Change: delete “muster banquet”, and change to General Membership meeting and presented at the banquet.”

PASSED 214-8

ARTICLE V, 5-08 – MEMBER’S RIGHT TO VOTE.

Every absentee ballot must be cast through the U.S. Mail and received prior to the meeting in which the matter is to be presented in order to be counted.

Change: add “or via electronic means” after the term “U.S. Mail.”

PASSED 208-11

BOOK Review: *The Snake Eaters*

The Snake Eaters: An Unlikely Band of Brothers and the Battle for the Soul of Iraq (Free Press Hardcover/May 1, 2012) is the first major book

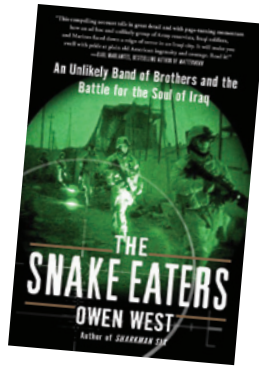
written about the military strategy of “advisors” since Vietnam. The author is third-generation U.S. Marine

Owen West who describes a searing narrative about a group of underdog reservists—including a plumber, a firefighter, a guitarist, and a DEA agent—that are thrust into combat as advisors on an isolated Iraqi outpost.

Owen West’s account of Iraq is the definitive account of his generation—and an argument for a new model of warfare.

The Snake Eaters takes readers into the streets, schools, and homes of Khalidiya—where the people West’s team were trying to protect were indistinguishable from the enemy they were trying to kill, and the Iraqi battalion they mentored. It seemed like a mission doomed to fail, but the men of Battalion

3/3-1, the “Snake Eaters,” wouldn’t give up. By the end of the mission, the Snake Eaters was the first Iraqi battalion granted independent battle space, the insurgency was wiped off the streets of Khalidiya, and peace was restored. *The Snake Eaters* is an incredible untold story of reservist advisors who are now the centerpiece of U.S. strategy, a rare success story to emerge from the frontlines of Iraq that informs the outcome in Afghanistan.



Notices

My name is Al Moreno, president of Global VIP Security Services in the Los Angeles, CA area. I am a former Marine 1968/69. My company is going to have fixed post security opening in the near future for VIP’s in southern California. The job openings are exclusively for former ‘Marine Embassy Guard and Marine ‘Military Police’ (MP’s). Jobs for our vet’s are difficult to come by these days and I am going to do everything I can to employ are recently separated Marine Corp Vet’s. Starting salary is in the \$48,000 per year range.

Contact info: Global VIP Security Services
One World Trade Center
POB 32085
Long Beach, CA 90832
E-mail: aam@globalinvestigations.com
Phone: (562) 810-8829

House Passes New ‘Stolen Valor’ Act

Those who lie about military service or make false claims about receiving military medals with the intent of benefiting from those claims would be committing a crime under legislation passed by the House last week. The House’s 410-3 vote on what is known as the Stolen Valor Act came less than three months after the Supreme Court struck down the original act on the grounds that it violated First Amendment free speech rights. The new bill attempts to get around the court ruling by making clear that it applies only in cases where people lie about a military record with the aim of obtaining payment or other benefits.

REMINDER -
DUES “R” DUE!

The 2012 MEGA Annual Membership Fee Is Due By December 31, 2012.

FEES SCHEDULE:

Dues Renewal \$25.00

New Members \$35.00 (\$25.00 + \$10.00)

Life Membership (less annual dues paid)

45 years old or younger \$375.00

46–55 Years \$325.00

56–65 Years \$275.00

66–75 Years \$225.00

76 years and older \$150.00

The Board has established a payment plan, whereby members may become a Life Member by making a series of payments to cover the total cost. The first payment would be \$50.00 less the dues paid for the year the payments start. Then, payments of \$50.00 per quarter would be due until the amount of the Life Membership is fulfilled. Quarterly payments would be due on the last day of the following months—March, June, September, and December. Contact the Acting Secretary, Kevin Hermening at: MEGA P.O. Box 6226 Wausau, WI 54402-6226 for further details.

Life membership fees are based on age, and are shown at the bottom of the application form. You now can renew your current membership or lapsed membership via PayPal.

MEGA Marine House

By Ed Vasgerdsian, Newsletter Editor

MEGA Marine House is dedicated to bringing you bits of info about the past, present and future. After all, if there was anything happening, it happened at the Marine House.

The Associated Press says, “The ranks of America’s poor are on track to climb to levels unseen in nearly half a century, erasing gains from the war on poverty in the 1960s amid a weak economy and fraying government safety net”.

So what do we do to bolster our country’s morale? (By the way, this has nothing to do with the Marine Corps) We give them an eating contest! Each year Nathan’s Hot Dogs sponsors a competitive eating contest. The winner is determined by the numbers of hot dogs the contestant can eat within a period of time. The contest is said to benefit Matthew House, a hospice for cancer victims. Since the trans fat content of each hot dog is already a health issue, how can the contest help? Watching the contestants on a studio monitor caused one seasoned TV news reporter to make a face while commenting on how nasty it was to watch the guy stuff himself with hot dogs. Who said newsies lacked emotions?

Come on Nathan’s—people are unemployed in large numbers today—give it up. There are poor people in this country who can’t afford to buy a bun let alone a hot dog and you parade a nit wit in front of people eager to see a side show freak and call it a competition for a good cause. A pox on you! Eating 68 hot dogs for some suspicious distinction is in your face gluttony. What makes this issue even more objectionable is the winner wraps himself in an American flag as though the contest was a demonstration of patriotism.



Remember the line from Sunset Boulevard when Gloria Swanson’s character, Norma Desmond a once famous silent actress said, “We didn’t need dialogue, we had faces?” Walt Disney needed dialogue actors for “Bambi” and six-year-old Donnie

Dunagan got hired to be the voice of Bambi. A few other films followed including “Mother Carey’s Chickens,” but his star was not on the horizon.

At eighteen Dunagan joined the Marines, became a Drill Instructor, of which Marine Recruits will say DI’s are a mean bunch that turns boys into men. In Dunagan’s case the job was transforming a fawn into a Mule Deer. He served three tours in Vietnam and was wounded several times before finally retiring in 1977 with the rank of Major, a Bronze star and three Purple Hearts.



“His true identity as Bambi remained hidden while he was in the military. He thought people wouldn’t have taken him seriously if they knew he voiced the famous fawn. It wasn’t until years later, when he was 70, that Dunagan made it publicly known. He’s now proud whenever someone calls out “Major Bambi” on the street. “I love it to death,” he says.” - Internet

I’m sure your mailbox is filled with pleas of financial assistance to help one cause or another. Whether the plea is to save an animal, a child, or raise money for a new library we do what we can to help. Unfortunately, there are far too many phony organizations around and among them are deceptive veterans organizations disguised under labels to give an appearance of giving help. We need to support those organizations that are on record for their integrity and trust and Charitywatch.org is good start. Here is their listing under Veterans & Military all of which are rated as A or A+:

- Armed Services YMCA of the USA
- Fisher House
- Homes For Our Troops
- Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund
- Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Operation Home Front
- Semper Fi Fund/Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund

“Stars and Stripes” is a new NBC show pairing celebrities with inactive military personnel for simulated military type challenges. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other Nobel Prize recipients said the show promotes violence and glorifies war. That’s his opinion. I don’t like the concept because I don’t like the idea of a retired military general, in this case Army General Wesley Clark, hosting the show. Maybe I should shut up and wait to see what they do with it. Mark Burnett is producing “Stars and Stripes” and he has a long record of successful shows with more awards than a Russian general.

edV



Marine Embassy Guard Association

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We're on the web!

www.embassymarine.org

MEGA Board of Directors 2012

Stewart M. Grant, Chairman, Director

BoD Term: 2012 - 2015

Ankara TR 1961 - 1962

Abidjan CI 1962 - 1963

sgrant@embassymarine.org

Raymond L. Kunkle, Vice-Chairman, Director

BoD Term: 2011 - 2014

Kabul AF 1961 - 1962

Ankara TR 1962 - 1963

Abidjan CI 1963 - 1964

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Ed Vasgerdsian, Director, Newsletter Editor

BoD Term: 2012 - 2015

Cairo EG 1956 - 1959

evgrunt@aol.com

Kevin Hermening, Treasurer

BoD Term: 2010 - 2013

Tehran IR POW 1979 - 1981

kevinh@hermeningfinancialgroup.com

Charles Kranz, Secretary, Director

BoD Term: 2012 - 2015

Baghdad IQ 1966 - 1966

Terhran IR 1967 - 1967

Bombay IN 1967 - 1967

Paris FR 1968 - 1968

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Timothy J. Wood, Director

BoD Term: 2010-13

New Delhi, IN 84-85, Santiago, CL 85-86

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Michael J. Laumann, Director

BoD Term: 2011 - 2014

Beirut LB 1970 - 1973

Addis Ababa ET 1971 - 1971

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Paul Robinson, Director

BoD Term: 2012 - 2015

Kabul AF 1960 - 1961

Ankara TR 1961 - 1963

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Scott Smith, Director

BoD Term: 2012-2014

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Ray Kunkle, Elections Chairman
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Joe Mitchell, Ship's Store Chairman
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Kevin Hermening, Reunion Chairman
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Terry Adams, Scholarship Committee Chairman
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