



MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSOCIATION

"In Every Clime and Place"



Newsletter

Official Publication of the Marine Embassy Guard Association

Winter 2011

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

Start Planning Now for the 2011 MEGA Reunion in San Diego, CA

Chuck Norris, Reunion Chair

As you may recall, our 2008 Reunion was held at the Town & Country Hotel, which was an exceptional location. Based upon that success, your MEGA Board and Reunion Committee believe a second visit is justified thereby giving our newest members an opportunity to share in the fun.

Make your hotel reservations by calling: 1-800-772-8527; be sure to mention you're with the Marine Embassy Guard Association for the group rate of \$119.00. This Rate is good three days before or three days after our reunion dates of April 27, 2011. For those driving, the on-site parking is \$1.00 per day; normally it is \$16.00 per day. Check out the hotel website at www.towncountry.com

The Reunion Registration Forms were sent out on February 4, 2011. If you have not received them by now and plan to attend please contact: Sherry, at Military Reunion Planners 1-817-251-3551 or Chuck Norris at 1-520-575-6449 or at chuckn38@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed: As always the Marine House Bar is funded by your donations. We are required to use hotel bartenders and you're donations help with that

expense. Please contact me by e-mail or by telephone if you'd like to help out with the registration process on Thursday April 28.

Based on the response we get through registration form, we will schedule a golf outing at the course next to the hotel. The Golf NCOIC will contact interested golfers.



San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter



Downtown San Diego

Schedule of Events continued on page 5

Chairman's Corner

Greetings MEGA members, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and weather conditions aside, continue to enjoy the New Year. This will be my last Chairman's Corner message, as we move on to a new era starting in San Diego. During my term of office, I met a lot of hard working and dedicated people, far too numerous to mention individually. Let me at least say, I would like to thank the MEGA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and volunteers who helped to make our organization grow and flourish. Thank you all for the opportunity to represent our members.

We have accomplished many milestones in membership, archives and the web site. We distributed new MEGA membership cards and we will soon introduce the establishment of a Founder's Award in memory of Robert L. Kienietz, MEGA Founder. Soon an announcement pursuant to the distribution of funds from our Scholarship Foundation will also be made.

I know the MEGA membership will continue to volunteer and support the new Chairman and Directors as best they can. I look forward to seeing you at the San Diego Reunion.

Semper Fi,

Ike
CWO5 USMC ret
Chairman

MEGA Membership Report

Bill McClure, Membership Chairman

Be sure to make your reunion hotel and dinner reservations ASAP. Updates on reunion information will be posted on the MEGA website.

Annual dues paying members can help us greatly by paying your 2011 membership dues promptly. Please send your check made out to MEGA for \$25.00 to MEGA, P.O. Box 6226, Wausau, WI 54402-6226, or by visiting the MEGA website www.embassymarine.org and clicking on the Join MEGA button. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the PayPal Box and click on the \$25.00 Renewal Bar. In addition, all members can help by keeping your membership records up-to-date on-line or by contacting me and being an active membership recruiter.

Check out the improved MEGA Membership Roster now available in the MEGA website Members Area. If you have any problems gaining access please contact me at

352-746-5184 or wmclure4@tampabay.rr.com at any time. For those without internet access updated copies can be obtained by sending a check made out to MEGA for \$3.00 (cost of publication and mailing) to Bill McClure, 4750 N. El Camino Drive, Beverly Hills, FL 34465.

MEGA continues to grow and we now number 667 members. Please welcome 18 more new members since the last newsletter:

Lacy L. Atkinson LM-1582 - Rabat 68-70/Tel Aviv 70-71
Donald R. Barnes RM-1591 - Copenhagen 56-57/Warsaw 57-58/Geneva 58-59

James A. Batton RM-1597 - Sofia 81-82/Bangkok 82-83
Kenneth C. Bransky RM-1592 - Dacca 79-80/Kathmandu 80-81

Timothy R. Calkins RM-1589 - Ankara 77-78/The Hague 78-79

Kenneth A. Guthrie RM-1594 - Belgrade 68-69/Bucharest 69 TAD/Vienna 69-70

Jamie C. Long RM-1588 - Currently serving Det.Cmdr.
(see roster for posting)

Keith J. Losordo RM 1598 - Port-au-Prince 9-10 Currently Serving (see roster for posting)

Richard H. Meyer RM-1586 - Madras 60-61/Athens 61-62

Jim R. Mitchell RM-1585 - Belgrade 60-61/Bonn 61-62

Randy E. Murdock RM-1590 - Antananarivo 74-75/Geneva 75-77

Rollin G. Napier RM-1596 - OIC, MSG School Quantico 83-85/C.O. Company F (Nairobi) 85-87

Samuel C. Randolph LM-1595 - Bogota 66-69

Baker R. Simma RM-1583 - Tokyo 06-07/Moscow 07-08/Brussels 08-09

Ronald E. Smith RM-1581 - Reykjavik 65-66/Bonn 66-67

Robert E. Strong RM-1593 - Cairo 63-65

Randall L. Tyner RM-1584 - Tegucigalpa 90-91/Brussels 91-92

Thomas S. Van Den Heuvel RM-1587 - Frankfurt 75-77

***Please Note:** If you are aware of the passing of any former/currently serving MEGA members please let me know. Our Chaplain, Juan Rocha, will send a MEGA condolence card on behalf of the membership to the family.*

Lest we Forget:

Robert T. Franzen
Donald E. Mosley
James G. Davidson
Herman "Boyd" Mosier
William Hugg

MEGA Scholarship Committee Report

Terry Adams, Scholarship Committee Chair

Several years ago the Marine Embassy Guard Association (MEGA) established a scholarship fund to benefit the children/grandchildren of former or active Marine Security Guards.

Financial support for the fund has come from individuals and corporations, as well as from members participating in our annual auction event during the MEGA reunion. This has resulted in our ability to now provide sufficient capital to begin disbursing awards through the MEGA Scholarship Fund endowment. Administration of the fund will be through the MEGA Scholarship Committee which will provide procedures and guidelines.

Administering the MEGA Scholarship Fund: The MEGA Scholarship Fund is operated as an endowment. The principal of the fund is invested to produce income, and an annual award is made to eligible recipients. The principal remains untouched, so the endowment can last into perpetuity.

The MEGA Scholarship selection committee carefully reviews the scholarship applications submitted by applicants and selects the most deserving recipient(s) based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated Academic Achievement.
- Demonstrated Volunteerism and/or Community Involvement.
- Demonstrated Leadership Abilities.
- Demonstrated Financial Hardship

ELIGIBILITY: The MEGA Scholarship Chairman will review all applications to determine eligibility requirements. The applicant must be a high school senior or high school graduate to apply for the scholarship. The scholarship is for undergraduate study at an institution of higher education within the United States and recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE).

The student must not have reached his/her 23rd birthday at time of application and must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0) at the time of application. A certified copy of the most recent academic year school transcript will be required of all applicants.

Application Process

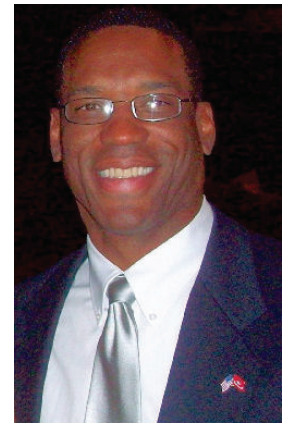
- Scholarship applications can be downloaded from the MEGA website.
- The MEGA Scholarship Committee must receive applications no later than April 1, 2011 to be evaluated for eligibility.
- Incomplete applications will NOT be returned and not processed.
- No applications will be accepted for the current school year.
- A new application package is required for each academic year (August through May).
- Receipt of a current scholarship does not guarantee an award for future years.
- Scholarship assistance is available for a maximum of four years of undergraduate study only.
- Awards are to be used in a traditional classroom setting for the following: tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board on campus, and curriculum-required computers (a letter from the school requesting approval must be attached).
- Early disbursements are not authorized.
- Disbursements are made directly to the student.

Procedures for selecting recipients:

- Only completed applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be forwarded to the MEGA Scholarship Committee. The MEGA Scholarship Committee will made up of MEGA Board Members.
- The Scholarship Committee will review all complete and eligible applications and may select up to two (2) recipients each school year for individual scholarships up to \$500.00.
- Decisions of the Scholarship Committee will be final. Applicants will be notified of decisions by April 20th of each year.
- MEGA General Members will be notified at the Annual Reunion, newsletter, or e-mail of the name and hometown of the recipient, and the amount of the scholarship award.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Scholarship recipients will be responsible for Local, State and Federal income tax liabilities, if any, in their respected jurisdictions.

We believe by utilizing these procedures and guidelines MEGA's Scholarship Committee will be efficient in the effort to support its members past, current and future.



Terry Adams
Newly Elected MEGA
Board Director and
Scholarship Committee
Chair

2011 MEGA Board of Directors Elections

Stewart Grant, MEGA Webmaster/Director

The election for MEGA Board Members will be coming up during our next reunion in San Diego.

The MEGA Board is composed of nine members who serve three-year terms with three terms up for election each year. A Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected from within the Board, each serving a one-year term. Also serving on the Board is the Secretary and Treasurer, both of whom serve three-year terms. The current Secretary serves until 2012; and the current Treasurer serves until 2013. In addition, the Board has an appointed Legal Officer.

Three Board of Directors seats will be open in 2011.

An ideal board is composed of experienced members who have a historical perspective of what has taken place in the past and with new members who can convey fresh thoughts and suggestions.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, please read the Election Process Rules found in the Member's Area on the MEGA website under "Voting Information" - Official Forms & Reports. Of particular interest will be Section IV, Eligibility of Candidates and Voters.

Any member in good standing who wishes to stand for Board election should submit a biographical sketch of 125 words or less by March 7, 2011. It is not required (but recommended) that you also submit a photo. Send to Virgil Johnson, Chairperson Election Committee, at 22 Constitution Blvd., Berlin, NJ 08009-1352 or at vjohnson@eticomm.net.

Red, White 'N Blue Ladies Brunch

The annual Ladies Event will take place during our Marine Embassy Guard Association 2011 Reunion on Saturday April 30, 2011, from 10 AM to Noon. It promises to be another hit. We anticipate having a great time at our ladies get-together and seeing old friends and making new friends is only part of it.

We'll exchange news in the friendly atmosphere provided by San Diego's Town & Country Resort. If you've been on course during the year, there are some unanswered questions: Did Betty cut her hair or did Betty color her hair? How about

Sandy, what's different with her? Did Zelda really have a face-lift or is it all those expensive creams her husband, Juan, buys for her?

As for the Scholarship Fund Auction, who'll make the highest bid for the diamond necklace? And for gosh sake, who donated the diamond necklace? As a matter of fact, is there a diamond necklace?

You'll leave the ladies luncheon knowing a lot more than you did when you came in. Who knows you may be a guest star on the new hit show, The Housewives of MEGA.

This year we're planning a Red, White 'N Blue Brunch—now you must come to see what that is! And oh, the story I have to read will keep you talking for weeks, and you're going to love the prizes and gifts. Start looking for your Red, White 'N Blue hat, dress, skirt, or whatever, and plan to wear it at the event.

Please take an extra moment to email me (Zelda) at: juanrocha3@aol.com to let me know you will be there.

See you In San Diego,
Zelda, Unofficial Women's Event Coordinator

Ship's Store Report

Joe Mitchell, Proprietor

As in Saint Louis, Ship's Store will be available for you at the Marine House during our San Diego Reunion celebration. We look forward to seeing at display tables. If you are unable to attend go on-line to the MEGA web site, click on Ship's Store, print out the order form and put it in the mail to us. We'll have the purchased items back to you within a week of receiving your order.

San Diego Ships Store hours:

April 28 (Thu) 1800-2000

April 29 (Fri) 1600-1800

April 30 (Sat) 1400-1600

Among a lot of interesting and new things available for purchase are a few T-shirts from the St. Louis (2010) reunion. Credit cards, checks and cash are acceptable forms of payment.

See you at the reunion.

**For a pictorial view of the 2010
reunion please go to
www.embassymarine.org**

MEGA Website and Historical Archives

Stewart Grant, MEGA Webmaster & Chairman

MEGA MAIN WEBSITE

Though the design of our main website is much improved, the content of our web pages will continue to improve with suggestions and contributions from you, the membership. One such improvement will be more timely postings of the approved minutes from the Board of Director's quarterly meetings. Your suggestions are appreciated. Please contact Stewart Grant, via email: sgrant@embassymarine.org.

MEGA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The MEGA Historical Archives is one of the few military information archival projects to tell the story of the MSG program from inception to present times. Thanks to the Internet, we have a worldwide presence with visits by viewers from all over the globe. Many of our non-member photo contributions, for example, come from active Marines, active MSGs, active FSOs, etc.

During our San Diego Reunion members of the Historical Archives Committee hope to continue to collect your digital or print photographs. We have over 190 detachment web pages and over 8,000 pictures/images and are looking for more. Bring your photos to the reunion and provide us with as much narrative information, to accompany the photos, as you can. Photo collection hours will be the same as Ship's Stores. If required, photos will be returned to their owners, after the 2011 Reunion.

We continue to look for new Page Masters to support our Photo Gallery and Detachment web pages. MEGA members, who are interested in keeping the MSG history alive through direct support of the MEGA Historical Archives, please contact Stewart Grant, via email, at sgrant@embassymarine.org.

Reunion Schedule of Events

Wednesday 04/27/11

- 5:00PM-10:00PM-Marine House Open-Sunrise/Sunset Rooms

Thursday 04/28/11

- 9:00AM-5:00PM—Board of Director's Meeting- Location TBD
- 1:00PM-10:00PM—Reunion Registration-Sunrise/Sunset Rooms
- 1:00PM-?—Marine House Open-Sunrise/Sunset Rooms
- 3:00PM—Hotel Registration
- Lunch and Dinner on your own

Friday 04/29/11

- Breakfast on your own
- 8:30AM—Buses load for MCAS Miramar (optional)
- 9:30AM-3:00 PM—Tour of MCAS Miramar
- 9:30AM—Buses load for San Diego Zoo (optional)
- Golf TBD—Depends on interest
- 4:00PM—Zoo buses load for return to hotel
- 4:00PM-6:00PM—Marine House Open
- 6:00PM—Cocktails (cash bar) Tiki Pavilion Pool Side
- 7:00PM—Mexican Taco Feast-Tiki Pavilion Pool Side
- 8:00PM-????—Marine House Open

Saturday 04/30/11

- 9:00AM-12:00AM—General Membership Meeting
- 10:00AM—Ladies Breakfast Tea-Marine House
- 1:00PM-2:00PM—Newly elected Board Meeting
- 1:00PM—Marine House Open
- 6:00PM—Cocktails (cash bar)
- 7:00PM—Banquet Dinner
- Scholarship Auction—Location TBA
- Marine House Open at conclusion of banquet

Sunday 05/01/11

- Hotel checkout time is 11:00AM
- Think, Plan and Save for 2012 in Washington DC area



MEGA Association Robert L. “Big Bob” Kienietz Founders Award

Tim Woods, MEGA Director

The Robert L. Kienietz Founders Award was created by the Marine Embassy Guard Association Board of Directors as a means of honoring a member(s) that has provided outstanding service to the association. The honor reflects the selfless service provided to MEGA by its founder, and award namesake, Robert L. “Big Bob” Kienietz.

Members of the association may submit the name(s) of any fellow member(s) whom they feel merit such recognition, along with written documental facts surrounding said exceptional service to the Board of Directors no later than March 1st of each year.

Criteria:

The Founder’s Award recognizes a member(s) of the Marine Embassy Guard Association who subsequent to January 1, 2010 performed outstanding volunteer service in support of, or is furtherance of the association’s mission and goals, of a sustained, direct and consequential nature.

Eligibility:

1. Service performed must be on behalf of the Marine Embassy Guard Association.
2. Significant in nature and produce tangible results and not based upon a single act or achievement.
3. Reflect favorably on the Marine Embassy Guard Association and the Marine Security Guard program.

The Board of Directors shall evaluate the merits of each nomination before rendering a decision. While there is no specific time threshold to qualify for the Founders Award, the Board of Directors shall ensure the service merits this special recognition.

Selection for the Robert L. Kienietz Founders Award will be based upon a majority vote of the Board of Director. There is no obligation on the part of the association or the MEGA Board of Directors to present the award annually.

MEGA Partners With MCESG And US Department Of State To Create The History of the MSG Program

Gene Frantz, MCESG Liaison

MEGA has been asked to participate in a project spearheaded by the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG) and supported by the US Department of State to create an oral and video based history of the MSG Program. No such formal historical record approved and supported by the Marine Corps or US Department of State exists anywhere in the world.

The initial focus of the project will be on significant events involving MSG Detachments over the past 20 years. A more detailed description of specific events initially targeted for this project will be communicated at a later date. The information will be collected from MSGs who personally participated in these events via oral and video interviews supported by written summaries. The finished interviews will be incorporated in training future MSGs and Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) Companies deployed with our MEUs in the context of “best practices” and “lessons learned.” In addition, the finished project will be part of the temporary and permanent MSG Program exhibit at our museum.

The first such video interview was recently completed with the current MCESG Sergeant Major Patrick Kimble who was the Detachment Commander during the terrorist truck bombing at the embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on August 7, 1998. We are working on obtaining a copy of this interview for viewing at the MEGA Reunion in San Diego.

MEGA member, Dave Spellman resides in the Quantico area and will be the primary on-site MEGA representative working directly with MCESG and US State Department personnel. Gene Frantz, Director and Executive Liaison, will support David in various aspects of the project.

In the coming weeks look for an email from David with more details and soliciting MEGA members to participate in this exciting and unique opportunity to document our history as MSGs. Don’t miss this *once-in-a-life-time* opportunity to personally help document our history and help train future MSGs and the Marines who support them.

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.

This comes under the, I Don't Believe It Column. Our United States Air Force, those blue uniformed overly funded, overly fed, and overly decorated part of our military services is so far out of order, I'm leaning toward recalling that whole branch of service. The Air Force Times reported, that airman will be now be subject to Roll Calls, Reveille, and "Taps". Can you believe it? Can you believe these clowns don't have to pay attention to Roll Call, Reveille, and Taps? One top Air Force NCO said, "Military traditions such as these are great reminder of our profession of arms. All airmen should be proud of their military heritage." Kinda makes me puke to hear that crap!

*

No disrespect intended here, but doesn't CMC General Jim Amos remind you of, movie actor, Jackie Cooper?

*

Today's Marine Corps training includes: how to shoot a variety of weapons, take down an enemy with a K-Bar, survival skills, etc., and now is offering marital training. That's right marital, not martial! We're going to pay money for someone to teach a course entitled, "How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk or Jerkette." This an insane waste of tax payers money. According to a Marine Corps news release, "The purpose of the workshop is to give partners a bird's eye view of dating and the ability to follow their hearts without losing their minds." Balderdash...What the hell is next, an advanced military course in proper sexual techniques? Better yet, how about A Dummies Guide For Finding A Mate?

This country is getting so screwed up, I'd go back to Cairo and live, if I didn't owe a cabbie for a fare I didn't pay several decades ago.

*

Well the Oscars are over. The Oscar, for the breast, I mean best smile with perfect lab made teeth and medically approved breast implants goes to.... And how about the rent a-dates who accompanied the women. They smiled a lot too. Don't you hate yourself for your imperfections? Remember Gene Tierney? She had a gap between her teeth which looked like a mail slot, but she was stunning. The award shows are a bit silly but that's part of our American lifestyle; it's a price we pay for living in a democratic society. Why not, we can afford to be a little silly sometimes. It's what separates us from the humorless yahoos of the world. We weren't the only ones watching the award shows. You wanna bet Al Qaeda and the Taliban folks watched the Oscars on their iPhones...in the dark...with a AK47...up in the hills...where no one could see what they're watching?



"Hey, what are you watching?"

"Taliban Food Net Work, sir."

*

As you've read in this edition of our newsletter, the Scholarship Endowment Fund is up and running and award(s) will be announced. As with any new organization trying to serve it's members, we experienced some difficulties in getting things started. We've overcome those issues and

we are up and running. Your contributions, whether direct to the Scholarship Endowment Fund, or by way of your participation through the annual auction has played a huge part in achieving this goal. Plans for this years auction include a Silent Auction as well as a Live Auction, the later of which will be hosted by Professional Auctioneer and MEGA Member Robert Schol (Saigon RVN 73-74).

*

By the way, we haven't had a dinner & dance reunion since I don't know when? Well, we're having a DJ at this year's reunion so, break out your ligament oils and arthritis pills, and get ready to Rock N' Roll!

edV



Marine Embassy Guard Association

P.O. Box 6226

Wausau, WI 54402

We're on the web!

www.embassymarine.org

MEGA Board of Directors 2010

Ike Inacker, Chairman, Director

*Warsaw, PL 1982-83; Hamburg, DE 83-84,
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Archives/Historian**

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**Virgil M. Johnson, Elections Committee
Chairman**

Taipei 57-59

William McClure, Membership Chairman

Calcutta, IN 61-63

Joe Mitchell, Ship's Store

Ankara TR 62-65

Charles (Chuck) Moseman, Newsletter Printer

Singapore 58-60

Juan Rocha, Group Chaplain

Kabul 64-65, Leopoldville 65-66

Fred Samarelli, Technology Administrator

Karachi & Manila 77-79

Ed Vasgerdsian, Newsletter Editor

Cairo, EG 56-59

Terry Adams, Scholarship Committee Chair

*Bamako, ML 80-81; Hamburg, DE 81-84;
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