

# MEGA-NEWS



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## *WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER*

A delegation of 8 members and myself met at Quantico to discuss the bylaws, goals and direction of the Marine Embassy Guard Association. We had a VERY productive working session and now have a lot of work to do. Those attending some or all of the activities were: Robert Kienietz, founder; Ed Vasgerdsian who came all the way from California; Ian McIntyre; Neil Huff, who is assisting in travel arrangements for Mrs Aliganga; Thomas Butler, who has worked hard and long on the legal end of bylaws, etc.; George Schaudel, who was our guide to Quantico, without whom we might still be lost; Christopher Wright (active duty); William Steeves, who has taken the lead in starting the Ambassadors in Blue Scholarship Fund; Jack McGarry, who stopped to join and stayed for all the meetings. Now let's hope I did not forget anyone. All these members made a huge effort on your part and at great expense to themselves. For this association to prosper, we need more members to join in the activities and functions of our association. On Sept 15th we met with staff of the MSG Bn at Quantico base in Marshall Hall. We first met with Capt Van Messel, then Major Herlihy, afterwards Sgt Major Biggs was introduced, as was GySgt Daugherty. Each and every one was enthusiastic about our association and really treated us well. All our questions were responded to at length. I know each member left the meeting with a VERY good feeling about the cooperation from MSG Bn staff. WE WERE IMPRESSED. But then, they are Marines--why shouldn't we be impressed!

## *NOW LISTEN UP..THIS IS IMPORTANT..WE NEED TO PULL TOGETHER ON THIS ONE.*

The mother of Sgt Aliganga, who was killed in the terrorist bombing in Africa this year, was not able to attend her son's graduation ceremony. MEGA has offered to pay costs of transportation, housing, meals, etc. to allow Mrs. Aliganga to attend the special 50th celebration and ceremony in February 1999, where she will be a special guest. In order for MEGA to fulfill this offer, we need donations of any size from any and all sources. I would estimate \$700. should cover all her expenses. With 300+ members, that is about \$2.50 each..CAN WE COME UP WITH THAT MUCH EXTRA CHANGE IN OUR POCKETS?? Please send your donations to MEGA Headquarters..568 Aaron Ct., Clifton, CO 81520, clearly marked for this fund so it won't get mixed up with other monies.

*LET'S SHOW WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN...MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.*

## *OK, here is your chance to go down in history.*

GySgt Leo J. Daugherty, III  
PO Box 150  
Quantico, VA 22134

has been asked to write the whole 50-year history of the MSG program. He wants interesting personal stories of MSGs. These may be events that happened while you were on post..such as 50,000 terrorists attacked my post and I held them off with my .38 special loaded with 4 rounds of lead ammo..or some funny and personal accounts of things that happened to you. Photos are especially encouraged (send a duplicate, not originals). I know if there are 50,000 MSGs out there, then there are 50,000 unique stories to be told. Here is the kicker..they must be in his hand before NOV 1st this year...time is critical..he has a deadline. This history book of MSG Bn is a major part of the 50th year celebration and will be kept forever as part of our history..so here is your sole chance to be 'part of recorded history'. Don't let him down--get out the pen and paper and be sure to give duty location, dates, full names, etc

## *REUNION NEWS*

It is VERY important that you contact me if you are interested in having a reunion at Quantico on the 18-19th February 1999. This is the 50th year celebration of the MSG program and also the graduation of Class 2/99. Since this is such an important event, many dignitaries will be there. This will cause a severe problem, since seating may be limited and you may miss the entire program. Quantico has only a couple of hotels (rooms may not even be available) and there is not much of anything to do there, other than the MSG events. Transportation is also expensive. Weather in February may be nasty as well. MY QUESTION IS THIS: With these things in mind, do you still want to have it there at that time? Other choices may be: go to a later graduation, have it in Wash DC and make a special bus trip to Quantico for a tour by MSG Bn, or have it somewhere else. MSG Bn needs to know by mid-October what numbers are coming for the 50th celebration if we decide to come. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE Your answer will not be binding at this time. Only those planning to attend a reunion either in Wash DC or Quantico who respond prior to Oct 25th 1998 will automatically receive reunion plans. After October 25th 1998, anyone deciding to attend should request reunion plans at that time. PIONEER MARINE SECURITY GUARDS WHO WERE POSTED DURING 1949 AND WHO WILL ATTEND ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT ME. We are working on plans to incorporate them in some part of the ceremonies. You are one of the FIRST, the PROUD, the MARINE SECURITY GUARD. Be part of the activities.

**URGENTLY NEEDED: MEMBERS WHO WILL SERVE AS OFFICERS IN THE ASSOCIATION.**

We need (1) President, (1) Vice President, (1) Secretary, (1) Treasurer, and (3) Board of Directors

The slate of officers must be ready to vote on at the annual meeting. Nominations will not be made from the floor at the meeting. If you are willing and able to spend some time on our association, send me your name and a brief background of yourself so your name can be placed on the ballot. If you need to know the duties of a post, let me know. I will send it to you....I need this ASAP.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The cut-off number of 300 for "Charter Member" status has been reached. All members after that number will be "Annual Members". A change to member number is going to be: The first '0' in your member number will be changed to reflect your status in MEGA..such as: A=Associate member, C=Charter member, R=Regular member, NC=Not current (dues not paid).

**BYLAWS OF ASSOCIATION**

The draft version of the bylaws and incorporation as a non-profit association are in the hands of an attorney. The bylaws will be voted on at the Feb 1999 annual meeting and reunion in Quantico, VA. If you would like a copy of the bylaws to review, please request one and enclose \$3. for printing and postage.

**DUES**

I have been able to keep dues to zero so far, due to some very generous members who have made donations to cover expenses. As we grow, expenses also grow, and it is anticipated that some form of dues will be necessary. This is one topic that will be discussed at the annual meeting. Since we will be a non-profit organization, we hope to keep the dues as low as possible, however, we must have more income to cover costs for mailing, web space, paper and all the other things we use.

**MISTAKES HAPPEN**

If you received (or did not receive) your certificate, or it was damaged or misspelled or whatever, or if you did not receive your shoulder patch when you had sent in a donation, PLEASE notify me so that corrections can be made. This also applies to email addresses on the roster page. In other words..I WANT IT DONE RIGHT! It helps me also if you would please print plainly and clearly.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Member William Steeves Jr. has taken the lead in starting a scholarship fund. We need about 3 more members willing to spend a few hours each year to accept, review, and choose applications and make the awards. If you believe this is a worthwhile cause, let me know, and I will assign you to the committee. Of course, a scholarship fund needs FUNDS..As a MEGA member would you approve of a \$5. extra amount added to the dues, to be set aside for this purpose, or would you rather make it voluntary? Would you be willing to contact businesses in your area for a CORPORATE SPONSOR donation?

**KEEPING EMAIL AND ADDRESSES CURRENT**

Let me know of any address (especially email address) changes so we can keep the membership roster and the mailing list current. Please include your member number when contacting me to make changes. It is very time consuming to read all 300+ names to find yours. THANK YOU.

**EXPENSES**

The mailing of this newsletter will cost about \$300. If you have not made a donation, maybe a couple of dollars could be found under the couch and mailed to help cover these expenses..Thank you in advance.

**ROSTER-PERSONAL INFORMATION**

I am working on a database which will enable me to locate certain items such as all the men who served at a particular duty station, all the members who live in a certain state, etc. I am also planning to post this information on the ROSTER web page. It will include the member number, names, addresses, duty stations, home phone, email address-- mostly what is on the application. QUESTION: How do you feel about YOUR personal information on this page? You MUST notify me if you do not want certain items included on the roster.

**RECRUITMENT**

Of course for our association to grow, we need members. We can all help in this regard. Things we can do: Talk to former Marines about it. If you subscribe to a national or even large local military association, write a letter to the editor, explaining our association and how to join. Become an active member, support your association. If you are surfing the net and find a place you think Marines might visit a lot, sign the guest book, send them an email asking for a link to our page, leave the URL and mention MEGA. We need all the exposure we can get.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST....**

What can I do, what can you do, what can we do to improve the web site, to improve the activities of the association, and any other thoughts you might have. SEND THEM TO ME.



(Patch not shown in color due to printing costs)  
These beautiful 4" color patches are available for a donation of \$10.00 or more. Send order to MEGA Hdqs 568 Aaron Ct, Clifton, CO 81520 specifying that the money is for patches...Thank You!

**SEMPER FI**