

## Message from Commandant August 2009

Greetings All,

As I do all too often in my life, I must confess that I waited until the very last minute to write this article. I was drawing a blank as I pondered what to write about so; hoping for inspiration, I logged onto our website at [www.airlandncdet.org](http://www.airlandncdet.org) and read the commandant's message sections from August 2007 & August 2008. I read some good information/advice here from our first two Commandants about starting meetings on time, and how to prepare ourselves before we ultimately report to the Supreme Commandant himself.

Frank Williams has done an excellent job with our detachment's website. I would encourage you all to visit the website, and to spend some time reading up on the detachment's history through the old newsletters, messages and minutes that can be found there. Most importantly, I would encourage each of you to familiarize yourselves with the Detachment Bylaws and Financial Guidelines.

Speaking of the Financial Guidelines, we have continually had problems with violations of these since our inception. To put the Financial Guidelines in a nutshell, don't buy or spend anything without gaining prior approval from the detachment or the Board of Trustees if you hope to be reimbursed. You may think your purchase is the greatest idea in the world but others may not see it that way, and we all need to share in the decision making.

On a brighter note, I am happy to announce that Mike Seybert has been appointed as our detachment's Toys For Tots Liaison Officer for this Christmas season. Mike has been a great contributor to the detachment since he came on board just a few months back. He has continually volunteered for various fundraisers and other events and has performed above and beyond what has been expected of him. Most recently, he is doing an excellent job coordinating the Wounded Warrior fundraiser at the Raleigh Flea Market, and serving in the capacity of interim Fundraising Chairman while Frank Kildea is on vacation. I very much appreciate his efforts!

Another appointment, or actually three, that I am pleased to announce is that of our Nominating Committee. This committee consists of Kevin Rumsey (chair), Ray O'Neill and Bob Peters. These Marines have hit the deck running; they are already planning a preliminary meeting and have been engaged in conversations via e-mail and phone. Good luck to them as they select a recommended slate of detachment officers to serve our next term. They will present their slate during our detachment's October meeting.

As always, I encourage you all to get involved in detachment affairs. Volunteer to help out where you can. Right now, Bob Peters could use some help selling raffle tickets at the Wake Forest Farmers Market each Saturday, and Mike Seybert needs volunteers for the Raleigh Flea Market on Saturdays and Sundays. If you feel that you have been blessed, and all of us have as Marines, there is no easier way to give back and assist our wounded Marine brothers than giving up five hours of one of your weekends to help out.

Kevin Hughes will be cooking for our detachment meeting this month, so please RSVP to him if you will be in attendance. Kevin can be reached by phone at (919) 961-0361, or by e-mail at [devildogpirate@yahoo.com](mailto:devildogpirate@yahoo.com). All for now!!

Semper Fi,

Mark Byrd  
Commandant