



**OUR OFFICERS
AND STAFF**
2011 & 2012

***COMMANDANT**
GARY RANDEL

SR. VICE CMDT.
ART KILTON

JR. VICE CMDT.
JACK CUNNINGHAM

JUDGE ADVOCATE
FRANK PARTRIDGE

**IMMED. PAST
CMDT.**
ARNIE STRAWN

ADJUTANT
**CHRIS
CHRISTOPHER**

PAYMASTER:
DAVID SWICKARD

**SGT AT ARMS/WEB
MASTER**
WALT MODLER

CHAPLAIN
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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TREASURE VALLEY
DETACHMENT #878 October 2012
BOISE, IDAHO

COMMANDANTS'S CORNER



I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
We have one associate member who is also the spouse of a detachment member. Because we do not have a detachment auxiliary, associate membership is something that other spouses may want to consider.

Any spouse of a member who wants to become associate members is encouraged to take that step. You will be a welcome member and I believe that if you are interested enough to become an associate member that your membership and participation will improve the detachment.

If you've not committed to attend the annual Christmas and Awards dinner on Thursday December 20th, then there may still be time to do so. Call Dave Swickard at either 631-4384 (Cell) or 229-3043 (Home). The dinner's details were in last month's newsletter.

Arnie Strawn and Walt Modler are doing a lot of "heavy lifting" to ensure that we have a replacement coffee wagon in 2013, and I will provide a detailed description of their work once the project is complete. The work they've done should serve as motivation to all of us to do something to support the detachment's work, but I am not holding my breath that Walt's and Arnie's examples will eradicate the apathy that infects the detachment.

Apathy is neither a merry nor happy topic, nor is it a subject that is normally raised during the holiday season, but I am going to address it nevertheless. Call me Mr. Grump or whatever you want to call me but here goes.

We will end 2012 in a good financial condition, but we did not realize our potential. The Alaska Cruise Raffle will earn the detachment approximately \$1,000.00 and perhaps a little more which is good but that money is nowhere near the raffle's potential to have earned as much as \$7,000.00. What went wrong? Member apathy towards helping with ticket sales is the reason we will have less money to support detachment projects and the purposes of the Marine Corps League than we should have beginning January 1, 2013. Conversely, a handful of members have personally donated large sums to support detachment projects, and they are: Bob Chester, \$1,700.00; Frank Partridge, \$1,000.00; and Chris Christopher, \$500.00. Only a few members are able to be that generous, and for a variety of reasons some members are not able to help out as they once did. That said, it is disappointing that so many able members do nothing to support detachment fundraising. I ask that you resolve to vigorously support our next fundraiser whatever it might be.

In case you've forgotten, the Christmas dinner stands in lieu of the December business meeting, which means that our next scheduled business meeting will be held on Thursday January 17, 2013. The primary business of the January meeting will be to continue reading the proposed revised bylaws. I explained the procedure for reading the proposed bylaws in two earlier mailings so I will not repeat that information here, but I will emphasize the obvious: Preparing to vote on the new bylaws is an important matter for the detachment; therefore, if you do not attend any other business meetings in 2013, you are especially encouraged to attend the January and possibly the February meeting as well so that you may become fully informed on the contents of the proposed bylaws.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



FOR ALL OF OUR BIRTHDAY GIRLS IN DECEMBER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! FROM THE LEAGUE
Patricia Chapman-Lyn Butterworth-Carolyn Dunlap

Anissa Bramlet

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL!!!

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS CONTINUED

Bluntly stated, if they do not attend the reading of these proposed bylaws, most members will never know or learn what is in the detachment's basic governing law. However, maybe all of that is not particularly important considering that as much as we talk about it most Americans have probably never read the Constitution of the United States.

If you have any thoughts or comments on what I've written or on anything else going on in the detachment, then I encourage you to write a letter to the editor for publishing in our January newsletter.



From the Junior Vice Commandant

Jack Cunningham

The Christmas Spirit



I just love this time of the year. Everyone is getting used to the cold weather and anticipating the Christmas season. Most of us have spent more Christmases away from our families and loved ones than we care to think about when we were in the Corps. Even so, many of the Christmases that I was unable to be home, I could still feel the spirit of Christmas with those I was with. The first year I was in the USMC, I messed up and took boot leave after ITR and then reported

to my duty station. Since I had just come off leave, I could not take Christmas leave and was forced to stand post on the base. Poor planning on my part, but the mess hall really had a wonderful spread for us on Christmas Day. We had a great time. I often think of the times when I was in Okinawa and how I missed my family in the states. Seeing the shops and bars in Kin Village always brought the spirit there, even for just a moment. The Marine Corps Reserve "Toys For Tots" program brings so much cheer to so many kids here in the Treasure Valley. I hope each one of us has supported this effort with an unwrapped toy in the boxes or a cash donation to the Marine standing there. That is the true spirit of Christmas, giving to those who are less fortunate than us. Always makes me feel good. I'd like to wish everyone that reads the Newsletter a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the bottom of my heart.

Semper Fi & Merry Christmas

Jack Cunningham

JVC



To all members

I have taken on the project of creating a new website for the unit and would like to make it a historical treasury, any help you can offer in locating things is great. Please look at the site at tvdmcl.org.

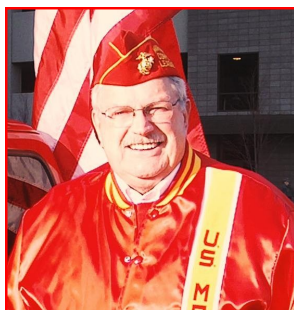
I don't need more fingers in the pie, keeping track of my 10 thumbs is enough, it is finding old documents, files, pictures, newsletters, minutes just about anything... To complete the set I am looking for Newsletters from 2008 Jan, Feb and March and 2003 Jan, Feb and March. With these I will have a complete copy of Novembers back to January 2003. As I have not received any other records the complete history of the unit is in the newsletters. And nothing exists from 2003 back to Apr 1996.

Boxes and boxes would be great. If you want them back, that I can do. I plan to scan everything into electronic files anyway. Even if you don't want them back I have a temporary storage location while I get the labor done. So maybe now is the time to clean out that closet. Just think about how she will enjoy that closet empty for Christmas!

Walt Modler

Walt Modler

wmodler@q.com or call 208.941.1390



From the Senior Vice Commandant

Merry Christmas fellow Marines and Semper Fi ! Another year has passed and the organization has grown and prospered. Under Commandant Gary Randel's leadership we are functioning very business like. Meetings, held at Fuddrucker's restaurant are structured to accomplish the business at hand, and held to strict time limits. Attendance is growing at each meeting. It seems we enjoy the burger and company prior to the meeting. Thanks for being there. If you haven't had the pleasure of going to Fuddrucker's, it's the third Thursday of the month. See you there!

Member Arnie Strawn has done an outstanding job of managing the raffle sales. Thanks to all of you who participated and helped with sales. The current raffle drawing will be held at our annual Christmas party at Marie Calendar's restaurant, on December 20, 2012. The grand prize is a cruise for two to Alaska at the winner's convenience. Included is \$1000 for pocket money. I'm sure the winner will be most pleased.

I'm looking forward to the Christmas party. We usually fill the room with members, spouses, and friends. Instead of gifting to one another, we decided that members could donate \$10 to Toys for Tots. It keeps the cost down and eliminates the angst of trying to pick out an appropriate gift.

2012 has been a good year for the Detachment. We are looking forward to an even better year in 2013. To make that happen, plan to attend meetings and contribute to the overall success. It only happens when all members participate.

Again, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Semper Fi.
Sr Vice Cmdt Art Kilton

Nationals Website Updated

FYI I received the needed information and have completed the update of our detachment information. Please have all that are interested review the information and contact me for any other changes. To view click:
http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/userpages/TREASURE_VALLEY-540.php

Walt Modler

SGT-AT-ARMS

WEB-MASTER TVMCL #878

wmodler@q.com

208.941.1390

Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline launched Monday, November 26 (1-800-273-TALK)

Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline, a program of Mountain States Group, Inc., will direct efforts to support those in crisis, and educate and offer resources and referrals to any resident of Idaho. ISPH will initially operate Monday thru Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm, with Fridays being added in February 2013 as more volunteers are trained. Calls to 1800-273-Talk will be answered by other National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network member hotlines in other states outside of those hours. ISPH plans to expand its hours to 24/7 in Year 2. Volunteers and donors are needed to keep the hotline moving forward, and serving those in need. More information about ISPH, and ways to help, can be found online at
www.IdahoSuicidePrevention.org

NOTE: All of the articles in this newsletter that appear as "cutoff" have links to follow the article. Simply move your cursor (pointer) around and click on the link when it shows. Any problems please notify the Editor.

“IN THE NEWS & OF INTEREST”

- [**The Lonely U.S. Army**](#) <—<— [click this link for more info](#)

By Robert D. Kaplan- There is an underreported story about the cuts in the defense budget under the Administration: It concerns the eclipse of the U.S. Army. For the first time since early American history, soldiers have become a devalued species within the military. This marks a clear break in the American narrative.

- [**VA Trademarks ‘GI Bill’ to Shield Vets from Deceptive Marketing**](#) <—<—
[click this link for more info](#)

December 3, 2012 by [Alex Horton](#)

For about two years, VA’s online communications team has been closely tracking the advertising and recruitment efforts of for-profit schools looking to bring in [GI Bill](#) tuition dollars. In some cases, these schools have [ensnared Veterans](#) looking for info by using official-looking websites, which funneled potential recruits to those schools without any balanced, objective information. We [aimed](#) to get the [word out](#) in order to help Veterans make the [best decision possible](#).

- **Special Tax Considerations for Veterans**

Here are a couple of additional links with more information to help veterans. If the links don’t work in this message, you can copy them to your browser and then use them however you see fit.

Thanks,
Gretchen Mitterer
Governmental Liaison Disaster Coordinator
Federation of Tax Administrators Liaison
IRS Governmental Liaison Headquarters Office
303-603-4786

[Special Tax Considerations for Veterans](#) (10/17/2012)

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Special-Tax-Considerations-for-Veterans>

[FAQs Regarding Filing Amended Returns for Disabled Veterans](#) (10/17/2012)

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Regarding-Filing-Amended>Returns-for-Disabled-Veterans>

- **US Restarts Bid to Move Okinawa Marines to Guam**

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2012/11/08/us-restarts-bid-to-move-okinawa-marines-to-guam.html?ESRC=marine-a.nl>

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The U.S. military restarted efforts this week to build up Guam for the planned relocation of about 5,000 Okinawa Marines, a key piece in the stalled plan to realign forces in the Pacific region and reduce tensions in Japan.

- **There is a movement to create a National Monument to recognize those who fought in the Korean War.** The article I received is far too detailed to put in this Newsletter. Email me at bobby-jleusmc@gmail.com for a copy if you are interested, or contact the project person using the following information: If you would like to volunteer as an area coordinator and really get in the fight please contact Bruce Woodward, President North Texas Chapter of the Chosin Few, at 3204 Saint Cloud Lane, Richardson, Texas 75080. Telephone numbers include: 972-234-4435 (home) 972-841-5903 (cell). Email: brwoodward@sbcglobal.net.

"IN THE NEWS & OF INTEREST"

- **Military History Professor Provides Korean War Perspectives**

To view original article: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118711>

This is a very interesting article with information not normally known; well worth the read! (Editor)

SEA KNIGHT'S FINAL FLIGHT FROM FUTENMA



The last of the CH-46E Sea Knights with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (VMM-265), made its final departure Nov. 26 at Futenma Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa, Japan. "The legacy that the CH-46E has in the Marine Corps, everything that it's done from Vietnam to Lebanon, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, is a testament to its capabilities and dependability," said Col. Jeffrey K. Arruda, the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 36. It is a bittersweet goodbye as the Phrog awaits final disposition at Camp Kinser. The squadron has fully transitioned to the MV-22 Osprey,

which can go faster, farther, and higher than its predecessor, enhancing capabilities as focus shifts to the Asia-Pacific region. [Read more](#)

SEMPER FI

VIETNAM WALL CENTER ALSO TO HONOR RECENT FALLEN

Military and D.C. officials broke ground Nov. 28 for the Education Center at The Wall, a 35,000-square-foot facility that will tell the stories of the 58,282 service members who died in connection with the Vietnam War and those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Center, located across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will feature a "Wall of Faces" depicting photos of fallen service members, a changing display of the more than 400,000 personal items left at the Wall over the past 30 years, a timeline of the Vietnam War, and an exhibit on veterans' experiences after returning home. The Center is anticipated to open in 2014 -- in time for the return of troops from Afghanistan. "This will connect the nation's past with the nation's future," said Jan Scruggs, president and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. [Read more](#)

- **Marine Corps forms new fighter jet Squadron**

<http://news.yahoo.com/marine-corps-forms-fighter-jet-squadron-081946874.html>

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Marine Corps is forming the first squadron of pilots to fly the next-generation strike fighter jet, months after lawmakers raised concern that there was a rush to end the testing of the aircraft that has had technical problems.

So far, two veteran pilots of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing have been trained to fly the F-35B. They are becoming the first members of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 that will debut Tuesday at a ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz.

- **DOD, Lockheed Martin Agree to More F-35s** By Claudette Roulo

American Forces Press Service; WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 2012 – DOD and Lockheed Martin have reached an agreement in principle to manufacture 32 F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter jets, Pentagon Press Secretary George E. Little said today. The jets are part of Low-Rate Initial Production batch 5 -- the fifth production lot of the aircraft. Unit-cost data will be made available once the contracts are finalized and signed, Little said.

"Production costs are decreasing and I appreciate everyone's commitment to this important negotiation process," said Navy Vice Adm. Dave Venlet, the F-35 program executive officer. For more info:

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118678>

Ho Chi Minh Trail today

- Quite interesting travel log of mountain bikers who traveled the Ho Chi Minh trail through Laos with photos to show what the area looks like today.

Looks like it needs a" light coat of oil." Vietnam vets should relate to this one. SF

Click: <http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-laos/>

[Here are some great photos from the Boise Vet Day Parade.](#)

For those receiving this who don't know, we had co-grand marshals this year, they are from left to right as you view them LCpl Randal Wright, USMC (Ret.), Kuna, Idaho who lost both legs and left hand in Afghanistan, and SSgt Chad Brumpton, USMC (Ret), Star, Idaho who lost both legs in Iraq. Members of the Young Marines organization are carrying the Grand Marshal banner. The Marines in formation marching are from C Company 4th Tank Battalion, which is the Boise Marine Corps Reserve unit. Also, that's Miss Idaho 2012, Whitney Wood from Idaho Falls, Idaho on the Marine Corps tank.



*******DETACHMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS DINNER*******

ATTENTION!!!! OUR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AT FUDDRUCKERS' IS EVERY 3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH ****FOR DECEMBER HOWEVER** **IT WILL BE THE 20th of DEC. AT **MARIE CALLENDERS'** : 1800 HRS Social Hour(6PM) 1900HRS (7PM) Dinner Begins FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Gary Randel: g.randeljr@att.net (208) 938-5171 or David Swickard: swickard@me.com (208) 229-3043 All members and their guests are requested to attend! Please dress appropriately (No shorts, T-Shoes, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts & etc.) Nice is the word of the day!

MARIE CALLENDERS': 8574 West Fairview Avenue Boise, ID 83704
(208) 375-7744



MORE VETS DAY PARADE AND VET'S HOME CAKE CEREMONIES



Tom Rogers-Walt Modler-Arnie Strawn-Ralph Elston (foreground)



Art Kilton



237 years HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Art gives address- Chris, Arnie, Cecil, Bobby, Rich in attendance.



Major Carlson does the honors!



Oldest Marine (91) at the Home Receives 1st piece

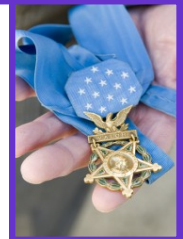
The 2012 Veterans Day Parade weather was a bit chilly but the "troops" from Treasure Valley Detachment MCL were up to the challenge. They fell in behind the M-1 Abrams Tank and Charlie Company in full stride as they "marched" the parade route. In attendance were Chris Christopher, Tom Rogers, Cecil Short, David Swickard, Ralph Elston, Richard Erickson, Arnie Strawn, Art Kilton, Jack Cunningham, Walt Modler and Bobby Lee (I hope I didn't leave anyone out!). The groups along the parade route were extremely enthusiastic and patriotic with their flags waving and shouts of "Semper Fi" and wishes of "Happy Birthday" to all marines as we passed by. Commandant Randal was present but as a member of the Parade Committee therefore he didn't get to enjoy all of the Kudos with us!

After the Parade many of us converged on the Boise Veterans Home to present the Marine Corps Birthday Cake representing 237 years of faithful service to those Marines and their guests at the Home. Art Kilton gave the introduction speech and the CMC's address during the ceremonies, and special guest Major Travis Carlson, Inspector-Instructor, "C" Company, 4th Tank Bn, did the honors of cutting the 1st piece for the oldest and youngest Marines.

To all who participated and represented the detachment a spirited Thank You and Semper Fidelis!
OUUURAAA!!!



MEDAL OF HONOR



For over 150 years, the MOH has stood above all other medals awarded for bravery. It's the only military medal worn around the neck; and its recipients are the only individuals the President salutes as a matter of custom. Some other MOH tidbits: one early recipient (in 1869) was a Pawnee Indian Army scout named Co-

Rux-Te-Cod-ish. . . . The first MOH recipient was Jacob Wilson Parrott in 1863, youngest participant in the daring Andrews Raid into the Confederacy to capture a train; 18 other members of that raiding party also eventually received MOHs. . . . The only woman to receive the MOH was Mary Edwards Walker in 1865 for her heroic efforts during the Civil War, some behind enemy lines. In 1916, a review board tried to rescind her medal, but she refused to return it. President Carter, recognizing her service, reinstated it in 1977. Her medal is on display in the Pentagon's women's corridor. For more info follow the below links:

<http://www.history.army.mil/moh.html> - For Art's Bio: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-g-l.html>

NOTE: TVDMCL Member Arthur J Jackson , 88 YEARS YOUNG; of Boise, Idaho is a recipient of the Medal Of Honor, received in actions against enemy Japanese forces on the Island of Peleliu on 18 September 1944. Art still lives in Boise and we salute him. To read his citation click on the 2nd above link and scroll down to his name. It's AMAZING!

A Brief History of The Medal of Honor: The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by the nation's fighting men was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. Designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," the award consisted of a purple cloth heart. Records show that only three persons received the ward: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, Sergeant William Brown, and Sergeant Daniel Bissel Jr.

The Badge of Military Merit, as it was called, fell into oblivion until 1932, when General Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff, pressed for its revival. Officially reinstituted on February 22, 1932, the now familiar Purple Heart was at first an Army award, given to those who had been wounded in World War I or who possessed a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate. In 1943, the order was amended to include personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Coverage was eventually extended to include all services and "any civilian national" wounded while serving with the Armed Forces.

Although the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, the idea of a decoration for individual gallantry remained through the early 1800s. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "certificate of merit" was established for any soldier who distinguished himself in action. No medal went with the honor. After the Mexican-American War, the award was discontinued, which meant there was no military award with which to recognize the nation's fighting men.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed the idea.

The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.

Office of Veterans Advocacy, Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

From the Desk of Bill Heyob

Fellow Marines, Sailors, Family, and Friends- I would like to quickly introduce myself for those of you that don't know me. My name is Bill Heyob and as of December 31st of this year, I will be retired from the Marine Corps after 24 years of active service. During my career in the Marine Corps, I served in the Infantry, Field Artillery, as a Drill Instructor, as the Inspector-Instructor 1stSgt at Gowen Field with Charlie Company 4th Tanks, and with Amtracks. My deployments included Operation JUST CAUSE- Panama, Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM, Operation JOINT/DECISIVE ENDEAVOR- Bosnia, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM- Afghanistan. I now have the honor of holding the position of Program Manager within the Office of Veterans Advocacy, replacing Tom Ressler who retired on 14 December. Tom will be dearly missed as he has been assisting Idaho Veterans for over ten years and I will strive to not skip a beat as we continue with our mission.

Just recently, seven of our Service Officers attended a week-long Advanced Service Officer Training Program at Annapolis, MD that was conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The instructors were all retirees from the Department of Veterans Affairs and covered topics relating to DOD/VA e-Benefits, Special Monthly Compensation, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Multiple Sclerosis, Diabetes, Gunshot Wounds and Muscle Injuries, the Appeals Process, and Arthritis. There were also many discussions pertaining to the length of time that it is taking for completion of claims and appeals (there are currently over 41,000 appeals submitted to the Board of Veterans Appeals). The VA is now transforming to a paperless system to track, develop, and rate claims that is known as VBMS. This system is now being used at the Boise Regional Office and in a nutshell, when a claim is submitted to the VA, it will be sent to Wisconsin so a contractor can scan the claim into the computer. Once completed, the electronic (paperless) file is sent back to the VA for development and worked until completion. All paper claims that were already being worked will continue as-is. When the new VBMS system is optimally working, the claims process is expected to drastically speed up compared to current wait times. With any new system, there are delays expected.

I am looking forward to working with all of you and if I, or my Service Officers, can be of any assistance with Claims or questions pertaining Veterans Benefits, please call us at (208) 577-2300. My Office is located at the VA Regional Office in Boise at 444 W. Fort St, Room 140, Boise, ID 83702 and we also have offices at the Idaho State Veterans Homes in Lewiston and Pocatello and an office in Post Falls.

Semper Fidelis,

Bill Heyob

Office of Veterans Advocacy

Idaho Division of Veterans Services(208) 577-2300

Also links of interest for TBI-<http://www.dvbc.org/> and <http://www.publicheath.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/index.asp>

Editors Note: *For those of you who may not know William (Bill) Heyob he is, and has been, a long standing Life Member of the Treasure Valley Detachment, MCL. I know Bill to be a hard working, "man of his word" and we are lucky to have him in this position! I'm sure he will serve the ISVS in his usual enthusiastic and professional style ... Welcome home Bill.*

Is Navy's new drone the first real military robot?

The use of autonomous drones will likely raise concerns that they could go awry, possibly attacking something other than military targets. The Pentagon requires that all weapons other than those designed for use in cyberspace need be built to rigorous standards and have human oversight to avoid that from happening. And the Navy stresses that the X-47 is not carrying any weapons, though it is outfitted to be able to do so.

But from a technology standpoint, the more significant factor here is that the X-47 is almost a true robot, which is generally defined as a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically. That means that the X-47 is probably the first real robot in military service, or at least it comes the closest to the futuristic type of robots popular in sci-fi movies.

That said, a lot is riding on the X-47 program. If it's successful, then count on it being the first in a long list of thinking machines, whereas failure could set the program back significantly. It is rare that we can identify a turning point while it's actually happening, but the X-47 going into service is a moment whose importance can't be overstated. Everything after it will make the world a different place. [Click below link for story with pics](#)

2012 http://gcn.com/Articles/2012/12/11/Navy-X47B-drone-first-military-robot.aspx?s=gcn_tech_121212&Page=3